

The Leader

"THE one Idea which History exhibits as evermore developing itself into greater distinctness is the Idea of Humanity—the noble endeavour to throw down all the barriers erected between men by prejudice and one-sided views; and by setting aside the distinctions of Religion, Country, and Colour, to treat the whole Human race as one brotherhood, having one great object—the free development of our spiritual nature."—HUMBOLDT'S COSMOS.

Contents:

News of the Week—	Page
French Ministerial Crisis	25
The Sloane Case	26
Protestantism and Popery	26
The Sham Miracle	27
Important Educational Movement ..	27
Harsh Poor-Law Administration	27
The Dutch Crown Jewels	27
Warlike Preparations at Buenos Ayres	28
The Forrest Divorce Case	28
A Week Among the Emigrant Ships	28
at Liverpool	28
The Quarter's Revenue	29
Second Annual Report of the News-	

paper Stamp Abolition Committee ..	29
National Charter Association	30
West-Riding Delegate Meeting	31
The Sheffield Free Press	31
Another Daring Burglary	31
A Den of Thieves	32
Making Trousers at 3d. a Pair	32
A Gang of Coiners	32
PUBLIC AFFAIRS—	
The Work of the Day	35
The Condition of Germany	36
How to get rid of the Taxes on Know-	
ledge	36
A New Education Scheme	36

The Disarmament of Sect	37
Good Teachers Wanted	37
Social Reform.—XXIV—Who can	
Create a People's Party	37
LITERATURE—	
Schlosser's History of the Eighteenth	
Century	39
Goethe and Eckermann	40
Sermons in Sonnets	41
Thackeray and the Thunderer	41
POETRY—	
The Lonely Flower	42
Sketches from Life	42
THE ARTS—	

A Word about the Lady of Lyons....	43
ASSOCIATIVE PROGRESS—	
Working Associations of Paris.....	43
OPEN COUNCIL—	
Malthus	44
Letter to H. Martineau	44
How to raise Capital for Coöperative	
Purposes	44
Marriage with a Deceased Wife's	
Sister	45
Mr. Muntz and the "Times"	45
Sir Edward Sugden and Prisoners ..	45
COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS—	
Markets, Gazette, &c.	46-48

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News of the Week.

NOTHING could more appropriately illustrate the irregular and patchwork nature of our taxation system than the conduct of the public. The Revenue Tables are watched with anxiety; if a deficiency appears, the public groans and anticipates more taxes; if there is a surplus, the public smiles fiercely, and we see meetings in every direction to demand the pulling down of this or that tax. If sufficient pains were taken to distribute the burden of taxation equably and fairly, there would not be this excessive anxiety to push off particular imposts: the restlessness of the public marks the unequal pressure and mischievous nature of the duties selected for revenue. The "taxes on knowledge" are of this kind; and not only the extension of the movement against them, but the character and activity of the agitators, indicate the speedy extinction of such duties. If the public generally speak out, we shall not long have to endure them. The window tax also is marked by the public with the axe of condemnation. Governments might save themselves endless trouble, however, if they were to abandon their empirical manner of dealing with taxation, and more thoroughly to revise the whole system. If the pressure were laid more equably, it would not be felt at particular points; if subjects for taxation so improper as light and ventilation, or communication and knowledge were spared, there would not be such just hatred of taxes; the public restlessness would not compel that incessant remission of duties at one season, to be followed by reimposition at another, which is now the custom; but a surplus of three millions or so would be patiently regarded as a convenient margin for the public revenue. It is true that the public *talks* of the amount of taxation; but the thing that it really *feels* is the inequality and mischievous nature of the particular taxes.

Some proof of this assertion may be observed in the growing disposition towards a new tax for education purposes like that proposed by the National Public School Association. A tribute to that plan has just been paid by those who belonged to its opponents in Manchester, in the suggestion of a parallel plan, the aim of which is to reconcile the original scheme with Tory notions in religion and politics, and so to render it available for quondam opponents, who desire to share the credit, the advantage, or perchance the future handling of administration and funds. We do not know how such a reconciliation would work, but the *desire* for it is a great public fact which means much.

Another movement, which cannot fail to establish a permanent source of good, is the formation of a public library in Manchester; a work due to the Mayor, who has originated and led it. The manufacturers have contributed liberally—raising

[TOWN EDITION.]

£7500 in all. The fact proves beyond question the growing confidence in education for the many. It also furnishes a corroboration of the benefits anticipated from Short Time: by the help of that alone will the People be able to read the books now given to them.

The Anti-Catholic agitation seems now to be dying out: while the public fervour of meetings is flagging, resistance to the general stream becomes more common; the popular hostility continues to be more specifically turned against the Tractarians; and the difficulties of enforcing any mere Anti-Catholic policy become every day more obvious. The difficulties do not lie only with the Catholics: it is quite clear that if any substantially effective scheme were laid before the public, a quarrel would immediately arise upon points of detail, between Protestants of the Established Church and Protestant Dissenters. If the Deputies of the Protestant Dissenters, who have been engaged in the discussion at the annual meeting, found difficulties of this kind in agreeing to a mere anticipatory allusion, how much more embarrassing are the enactments themselves likely to be! The true friends of "civil and religious liberty"—the soul of religious liberty being *non-intervention*—are becoming alive to the dangers of establishing a Protestant inquisition, administered by the Established Church, in the name of a measure for the coercion of Catholics: the admirable example of Joseph Barker's success in the Leeds Town Council, in making a stand against the insidious principle of religious coercion, cannot be without effect. But practically there are obstructors even in the body of the Established Church: in a formal correspondence with the Archbishop of Canterbury, the clergy of the Established Church in Ireland demand that they shall be treated as an integral part of "the United Church of England and Ireland," and that any measures taken against "the movement of the common adversary" in England should be extended to Ireland, for the common protection. From the orthodox point of view, this demand is so reasonable, that it cannot be slighted without greatly lowering the moral position of those who are responsible for the official administration of ecclesiastical affairs; and yet to comply with the demand would render the civil government of Ireland impossible. The difficulty has been pointed out before, but this week it is rendered more apparent than ever. The direct alternative would be, to adopt in England only such measures as could be safely applied in Ireland; and, if Ministers abide by that test, nobody needs be much alarmed at the measures they are going to accord. We all remember that King Log made a terrific splash when he was thrown into the water, but that the frogs who had been fatiguing Heaven with their clamours, found him only too harmless.

Abroad, on the surface of events, reaction against popular right proceeds without interruption. The diplomatists partaking in the Conference at Dresden

have it all their own way: whatever the quarrels amongst themselves, they keep their councils secret, and are united against "the movement of the common adversary"—the People. That there are bitter quarrels among them we know. In his recent address to Austrian Embassadors at the principal Foreign Courts, Prince Schwarzenberg tried to make it appear that Prussia had been a petitioner for the preliminary conference at Olmütz, had thankfully succumbed to the merciful terms of Austria, and had, in short, learned to know her place. King Frederick William, who had betrayed the interest of his own People and of "Germany" to rejoin the compacted band of German Monarchs, is excessively indignant at this disparaging representation; but he does not the less continue his truckling to the Russo-Austrian spirit which animates the crowned conspirators against the German Peoples. Rumour announces that the claim of Bavaria for a representation of the German People, in the diet to be reestablished, is abandoned; but that the project of a Bavarian league, or "collectivity" of Southern states, is rising in favour: in other words, Bavaria has successfully used the People as a stalking horse to attain her own ends. In the comedy of the *Confederates*, Brass brings his accomplice, Dick Ablett, to terms by talking loud; just as Bavaria is described to have done in the farce of the *Confederates* at Dresden.

Meanwhile the treatment of Hesse-Cassel is a practical sample of the rule under the future Federal Diet: the Austrian Commissioner, Prince Leiningen, has repudiated the high-handed measures of Peucker, the Prussian Commissioner, who has gone so far as to bring active Constitutionalists before courts-martial, and have them sentenced to be beaten with sticks; but we do not hear that Prince Leiningen has caused the patriots to be beaten again, or even compensated. Peucker was only premature: Germany is to be ruled by the stick.

In Paris political affairs are in a state the most unpromising. Paris boasts of being France—but France must be very much ashamed of its boastful capital. There is a war of intrigues—intrigues which nobody quite understands, but which are best seen when we survey the surface of affairs broadly, without looking at the details too closely. Conservative politicians ought to make much more than they do of what surgeons call a clinical lecture over the suffering patient—the country. The royal class has been swept away, the aristocracy has been totally broken down and crumbled to a ruin, and yet a country less happy, more oppressed at home and tyrannical abroad, more torn by the intrigues of faction, is not to be found in Western Europe. The secret is to be sought in the fact that, while traditional chivalries and old faiths have expired, leaving the People sceptical and inert, political knowledge, energy, and power, have fallen almost exclusively into the hands of the professional politicians of the capital; those politicians

are actuated, for the most part, by mercenary motives; and the relics of the aristocracy or gentry, who have taken to the profession of statesmanship, have fallen in with the fashion of the day. The professional statesmen have obtained possession of political society, of the press, and of the majority of the Assembly. Unorganized, however, by any profound patriotic sentiment, this crowd of professional statesmen is split up into little bands, each aiming at a career for its own advantage, or allying itself to some more powerful clique with the same motive. There is no trust among men; the only respite from contest is the armed repose of universal suspicion. We now understand why the majority of the Assembly has supported the President up to a certain point, and then is inclined to lurch him when he becomes too independent and shows no desire to appreciate the merits of the most eminent in the profession of politics; why the majority sets up against the President a man like Changarnier, a rude soldier, with no merit but audacity and regimental science. Louis Napoleon is trying to secure his own reelection, and to obtain £120,000 a-year as his official income; but his immediate efforts are concentrated on the dismissal of General Changarnier from the military command of Paris. To facilitate that, an attempt is made to fasten upon Changarnier the issue of an order in 1848, of Austrian severity against civilians, and deliberately slighting the Representatives of the People. The majority of the Assembly receives his explanations with eager willingness, and refuses to allow the Minister of War a single day for enquiries. The refusal is accompanied by marks of derision purposely intended to express contempt for the President's Ministers, who had already found it very difficult to carry on the public business in the Assembly. The President's Ministers tender their resignation, and Paris is under a Ministerial crisis. Meanwhile, Louis Napoleon goes about among the People, courting the marks of popularity which they are ready enough to bestow.

To France is restored a fair native, who has become only too celebrated—Mrs. Sloane. It is intimated that she has escaped—by favour of the lenity which dispensed with her presence in the Police Court. We seldom object to lenity, especially towards a woman; but we can scarcely abstain from reflecting that many a woman less shockingly accused has received less indulgence than that shown to the wife of the "eminent special pleader."

FRENCH MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

France has been thrown into another crisis by the resignation of Ministers, which took place rather suddenly on Saturday. The causes of this step on their part, are chiefly the late defeats which they have sustained in the Assembly, where the majority have beaten them repeatedly during the last fortnight. First of all, there was the lottery question; next, the liberation of M. Maguin; and then the Yon affair. In this last case, Government had called on the Bureau to dismiss M. Yon, the Police Commissary of the Assembly, for his want of discretion and informal conduct in the Allais affair, which he did not report, as a subordinate ought to have done, to M. Carlier, the Prefect. M. Yon appealed to the Assembly to maintain him as its own independent officer, owing no duty to the Prefect. The Assembly took up his case in this light, and refused to dismiss him. M. Baroche threatened to resign; and the question was fixing the Ministry in a dilemma, when M. Yon considerably removed the original difficulty by a voluntary resignation.

But the business which aggravated Ministers more than all was the failure of an attempt to throw odium upon General Changarnier. In the Assembly on Friday, M. Napoleon Jerome Bonaparte demanded to interpellate the minister of war with regard to the instructions given by General Changarnier to the troops under his orders, some of which were published by the *Patrie*, an "Elysée" newspaper. Several terms of delay were demanded and successively rejected by the Assembly, notwithstanding the request of General Schramm. One of the orders was to shoot insurgents, but General Changarnier explained that the orders were simply to apply in case of an *insulte*; and the Assembly, by its cheers, shewed plainly that it adopted the explanation. Next day another manifestation of hostility on the part of the majority was exhibited in the Bureaux by their electing Presidents the most hostile to the Government.

As regards the composition of the next Ministry, all kinds of rumours prevail, but nothing precise is known. On Wednesday it was stated that MM. Odillon Barrot, Dupin, Molé, Thiers, Berryer, Montalembert, and De Broglie were sent for to the Elysée at half-past two o'clock that day; that the President informed them he did not send for them

for the purpose of consultation, but merely to announce to them, as the leader of the majority, the resolution he had come to. That resolution was, that as he found himself abandoned by the majority he should be obliged to have recourse to a Billault Ministry, as he was determined to remain no longer under the domination of General Changarnier. He said that he was ready to ratify the nomination of any general the Assembly thought proper to appoint, that he would accept even General Cavaignac, but that to General Changarnier's dictation he would submit on no account; and, further, that he would take no Minister that was not prepared to appear before the Assembly with General Changarnier's dismissal in his hand. As M. Billault voted for the *droit au travail* this announcement has created no small degree of alarm among the majority.

THE SLOANE CASE.

At the Central Criminal Court, on Wednesday, Mr. Clarkson appeared on behalf of Mr. Sloane, with an affidavit made by that gentleman's attorney which stated that, owing to the very great public excitement that had been created by the case, he did not believe that Mr. Sloane could have a fair trial at the present session. Mr. Justice Patteson said a party was bound, under all circumstances, to appear and plead before he could claim his right to postpone the trial. This, however, involved one of the difficulties of the case, as it was represented that the defendant could not at this time go about in public without his life being in danger from violence.

In reply to a question as to whether he appeared on behalf of both Mr. and Mrs. Sloane, Mr. Clarkson said he appeared on behalf of the former, who had alone been held to bail. Mr. Huddleston said it was understood that when the grand jury had found the bill, Mrs. Sloane intended to surrender and take her trial; but this was flatly contradicted by Mr. Clarkson, who stated that Mrs. Sloane was not with her husband—indeed, he believed that she was not in the country. In that case, Mr. Huddleston contended that, if the trial was postponed, the court should accompany it with a condition that Mr. Sloane should enter into sureties for the appearance of his wife. Mr. Justice Patteson said they could only order sureties to be given where a party had been arrested.

The judges having conferred together for a short time, Mr. Justice Patteson said the court was of opinion that upon the whole it was better that the trial should be postponed. He should have been glad if it had been in any way in the power of the court to have secured the attendance of the other defendant, but as she had not been in custody that could not be done. All the court, therefore, could do at present was to direct that the trial should be postponed to the next session, upon the defendant and his sureties entering into the necessary recognizances. The required sureties were shortly afterwards entered into, and the case was ordered to be placed on the judge's list at the next session.

In consequence of the additional reward of £30 having been offered by Government, greater activity is displayed by the City constabulary, and all parties acquainted with the person of Mrs. Sloane are endeavouring to effect her apprehension. On Tuesday evening last, information was received at the station where the warrant is deposited that Mrs. Sloane was to be found residing in the neighbourhood of Chelsea. Accordingly, two detective officers of the City police force were despatched, in company with a clerk from the Temple, who brought the information, and they proceeded direct to Ranelagh-street, Chelsea. On arriving there, the clerk pointed out the house in which he believed Mrs. Sloane was concealed, and the officers stepped forward and knocked boldly at the front door. It was opened, and they were immediately after ushered into the drawing-room, where they found a lady apparently about forty-five years of age, and exactly answering in every particular the description of Mrs. Sloane as it is set forth in the placards offering the reward for her apprehension. The clerk from the Temple felt perfectly satisfied that she was the party that they came in search of, and on the officers unfolding their business they were all greeted by a volley of abuse, at the termination of which she complained bitterly of the continual annoyance she experienced in consequence of being mistaken first for one disreputable character and then another. Some time back she was recognized as Mrs. Manning, and now she was identified as that horrible wretch, Mrs. Sloane. The officers were astonished at meeting with such a reception, and the clerk looked so extremely dubious that at length they were resolved to put an end to the perplexity they were in by sending to the Royal Free Hospital for the girl, Jane Wilbred, in order that she might identify the party. One of the officers accordingly left for that purpose, and, although past the usual hour for the patients to retire to rest in that establishment, Jane Wilbred was taken in a cab to Chelsea; but directly she was placed before the lady she said "Oh, that is not Mrs. Sloane." The Templar found he had made a blunder. Apologies followed, and the officers left upon excellent terms with the molested lady.

So great has been the interest excited in the minds of the public by the statements relating to Jane Wilbred, that the Royal Free Hospital has been literally besieged by people wishing to see her. Indeed, it has been found necessary, on visiting days, to place her in a private room apart from the wards, in order that she may not be subjected to the unpleasant scrutiny of strangers, and particularly that of the great number of artists that are daily applying for permission to take her portrait. The committee have passed a resolution to the effect that she shall not be seen until after the trial: the public will consequently have to delay their curiosity to see what kind of a person Jane Wilbred is until near the end of February next.

PROTESTANTISM AND POPEERY.

A public meeting of the lay members of the Church of England in the districts of St. Paul and St. Barnabas, of the out-ward of St. George's, Hanover-square, was held at Messrs. Cuthbertson's rooms, Lower Belgrave-place, on Wednesday evening, for the purpose of agreeing to an address to be presented to the Bishop of London, against the Romish practices still carried on in the parish. Mr. J. G. Harris, who was called to the chair, stated that they had been unable to obtain the use of a room in their own district. He could name some hundred tradesmen, who, though opposed to the Babel of Barnabas and St. Pauls, dared not come forward to express their opinion. All the Romanizing practices were still kept up in those churches, except the lighted candles. An address to the Bishop of London, expressing their gratitude for the firm and decisive manner in which he had persisted in accepting Mr. Bennett's resignation was proposed, and after a good deal of uproar, in the midst of which for full half an hour the chairman was unable to make himself heard, was carried by a large majority.

Thomas Doyle, a tall powerful Irishman, employed as beadle at Charlotte-street Chapel, Pimlico, was brought up at Westminster Police-office, on Wednesday, on a charge of assaulting Mr. Edward Simms, timber merchant, Gillingham-street, Wilton-road, Pimlico. The case arose out of the great Pimlico question. Mr. Simms had gone into the chapel on the evening of last Sunday week, to witness the Romanist practices, the "additional novelties," as the Bishop of London calls them, and was asked by Mr. Doyle, the beadle, to take a seat. This he refused to do, upon which the beadle, after some altercation, put him out. A solicitor, who appeared for Mr. Doyle, said there had lately been several persons in the aisle and body of the chapel distributing tracts and disturbing the congregation. About three weeks ago, a man rushed into the middle aisle, and running up threatened to do some injury to the incumbent, in consequence of which he deemed it necessary to lay down a regulation that every person should be required to take a seat, or be turned out, as people about to disturb the congregation. At the request of the solicitor the case was sent to the sessions, and the defendant was ordered to find bail, which he did, for his appearance there, to answer the charge.

The Reverend Bryan King, Rector of St. George's, East, writes to the Bishop of London, stating that his church has recently been visited by an archdeacon, who expressed himself very much displeased with certain ornaments in it. The rector, after stating that the church is exempt from any archdeacon's jurisdiction, wishes to know by what authority any archdeacon has visited his church. The Bishop replies that it was under his instructions that the Archdeacon of London had gone to the church in question; not, however, in his official character, but to report as to the truth of certain statements respecting the decorations. "Of course," adds the Bishop, "he gave no orders, having no authority to do so." The rector says it is perfectly true that the Archdeacon "gave no orders," but he "not only denounced the cross over the Lord's Table, the crosses upon the altar, book markers, and the chandelier of the apse, but even and specially the motives which had suggested the decorations." In conclusion, he takes the liberty of telling his lordship that the conduct of his official has been "as utterly unwarranted as it was unceremonious and offensive."

Mr. Rochefort Clarke, barrister, a speaker at the Oxford county meeting, took occasion, in describing Cardinal Wiseman as an alien, to make a very offensive reflection on his possible birth. The Cardinal has addressed to Mr. Clarke, through an attorney, the following:—

"35, Golden-square, Jan. 4, 1851.

Sir,—A letter in this day's *Chronicle*, signed "Gentilis Homo," has called my attention to some expressions in your speech at the Oxford county meeting, on the 2nd instant, respecting my birth, which I cannot with decency transcribe.

"I have for the last two months borne silently much calumny and railing against myself; and I am ready to go on enduring, personally, more still, for what I believe to be the cause of God. But I cannot allow to pass unnoticed any slander of one to whom I owe all good in life, and whom God's commandments enjoin me to

honour, and consequently to shield from dishonour. Although nearly an octogenarian, my venerable parent, against whom you have publicly uttered a most revolting insinuation, retains still full possession of every faculty, and as keen a sense of the honour due to an unblemished life as others do in earlier years. After having passed her days with the respect and esteem of all that know her, unless the kindness of friends shall keep her in ignorance of the blow you have struck at her honour, God only knows what the effect of it may be upon her mind or her life. As it has been the first, so it may prove a last and fatal stroke.

"I therefore earnestly and solemnly call upon you, as a Christian, as a gentleman, and as a man, publicly to retract and apologize for the unfounded imputations which you have cast upon my parent's honour in your speech at Oxford.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
"Rochefort Clarke, Esq." N. CARD. WISEMAN.

Mr. R. Clarke replies with a disclaimer of any insinuation, and an offer to print his own speech in full, adding—"And if you will send me a short letter to explain your birth and parentage, and state whether you are a subject of Queen Victoria or not—and if I find your letter of such a character as to justify me in doing so, I will add it to my pamphlet, and afford you this opportunity of placing your birth and parentage truly before the public, which we Englishmen are naturally anxious to have explained."

At the annual meeting of the Protestant Dissenting Deputies, yesterday week, a long discussion took place regarding a paragraph of the report, in which the Committee condemned the Papal Bull, and expressed their indignation at the aggression of the Bishop of Rome. Most of the speakers were strongly opposed to the paragraph being retained, and the discussion of whether it should be expunged or not was adjourned till yesterday.

Thirty-one Irish members, whose names are given below, have signed the following warning to Lord John Russell:—

"We, the undersigned, deem it our duty at the present juncture to declare our unalterable attachment to the principles of Civil and Religious Liberty, and our determination to oppose by every constitutional means any measure tending to interfere by legislative enactment with the discipline or doctrine of any portion of the Queen's subjects.

"M. J. Blake, Castlereagh, M. E. Corbally, W. Sharman Crawford, J. T. Devereux, W. Fagan, J. Fagan, R. M. Fox, H. Grattan, J. Greene, R. Keatinge, C. Lawless, W. Torrens M'Cullagh, N. V. Maher, W. Monnell, T. Meagher, G. H. Meagher, J. O'Brien, T. O'Brien, M. O'Connell, J. O'Connell, A. O'Flaherty, The O'Gorman Mahon, G. Ouseley Higgins, M. Power, N. Power, E. Burke Roche, J. Reynolds, J. Sadleir, Frs. Scully, J. H. Talbot."

The *Morning Herald* says:—"There is a gentleman of the name of Sir J. E. Harington, who has been carrying on the controversy in Mr. Bennett's behalf lately, and who is, we believe, Mr. Bennett's churchwarden. Well, a clergyman now in England met with a Sir J. E. Harington in Rome last spring, and supposes that this 'churchwarden of St. Paul's, Knightsbridge,' is the same person. But at Rome the Sir J. E. Harington who was there last spring prostrated himself before the Host, and even knelt in worship of that stupid fraud, 'the handkerchief of St. Veronica!' If there are not two gentlemen of the name, what else than a Papist is Mr. Bennett's churchwarden? But this is not the only circumstance connected with St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, which has recently come to our knowledge. Romanism has been practised in that congregation for some time past in its most dangerous points. We speak from very accurate information when we say, that parents have discovered that their sons were in the habit of frequenting haunts of dissipation, and indulging in habits of gross vice, and then of going to Mr. Bennett, or his curates, on each Saturday night to be 'confessed and absolved'—then to pursue the same round on the following week."

The Reverend Sir Frederick Ouseley, Bart., and Sir John Harington, Bart., both of Oxford, have, it is stated, seceded from the Established Church. Sir John Harington was Mr. Bennett's churchwarden.—*Daily News*.

The *Standard* says:—"It is understood in the neighbourhood of Antony, in Cornwall, that the Reverend H. L. Jenner, the son of Sir Herbert Jenner Fust, who is curate of a chapel at Merrifield, in Antony, has been suspended from his clerical duties, or received an intimation that he had better resign his curacy, in consequence of some Romanizing practices in which he is said to have indulged. There are rumours also afloat as to the Reverend J. F. Kitson, the vicar of Antony, leaving his vicarage for some time, in consequence of the uneasiness of some influential persons in the parish as to his mode of discharging his duties."

Two birds, dressed up as a pope and a cardinal, were set loose by some unknown person in St. Andrew's Church, Wells-street, on Sunday, during the celebration of Divine worship.

The *Plymouth Journal* says:—"We understand that Dr. Pusey was in this neighbourhood about ten or twelve days since, when it is possible that he shivered some or all of the Sisters of Mercy; as he now confesses that he does that kind of thing in four dioceses. If it be an honourable or a proper duty for a 'priest' of the Establishment to perform, why are the doctor's visits so mysterious? He comes down here frequently—so we are told—and the bishop's mock enquiry brought out the fact that he slept in the house, at that time, of the Sisters of Mercy."

The great Gorham case is producing fruits even among the clergy of South Africa. The "bishop and clergy of the diocese of Cape Town" have put out a declaration, in the old English typography of Puseyism, protesting against the jurisdiction of the Privy Council:—"We cannot consider this court as entitled to express the judgment of the Church of England in points of doctrine; and, therefore, while we are ready and anxious to listen dutifully to the acknowledged voice of the Church, we cannot accept from such a court any interpretations or decisions in a controversy of faith."

THE SHAM MIRACLE.

The sham miracle of a bleeding Christ, related in last week's *Leader*, will, no doubt, prove to have been a mere imitation of an old imposture. A correspondent of the *Times* gives the following parallel case from *Collier's Ecclesiastical History of Great Britain*:—

"At the arrival of the Earl of Sussex, the Queen's Lieutenant in Ireland, the Litany was sung in English, at Christ Church, Dublin (Tuesday, August 30, 1559). Some bigotted Papists were much disturbed at this way of worship, and endeavoured to retrieve their old service by counterfeiting a miracle. To this purpose a marble figure of our Saviour, standing in the cathedral, with a reed in his hand, and a crown of thorns on his head, was observed to bleed through the thorns upon the face of the image. This wonderful appearance happened in service time, when the Lord Lieutenant, the Archbishop, and the rest of the Privy Council, were at church. When this was perceived by the people they were strangely affected, especially when one privy to the contrivance told them that our Saviour could not choose but sweat blood when heresy was come into the church. In short, all the audience not being of the same mind, the miracle occasioned a confusion, and the congregation broke up. Several of the people, however, stayed behind, fell on their knees, and prayed before the image.

"The Archbishop of Dublin (Hugh Curwen, a native of Westmoreland), suspecting some foul play, ordered the sexton to wash and examine the image. This being done, the man perceived a sponge soaked in blood within the hollow of the head. This sponge one Lee, formerly a monk of the cathedral, had put within the head that morning, and being loaded with blood, it was strained through the cracks of the marble, and fell down in drops upon the face. The cheat being thus discovered, the Archbishop preached in the church upon that subject the next Sunday; and to make the more serviceable impression, Lee, with his assistants, were planted upon a table before the pulpit, with their hands and legs tied, and their crime on paper upon their breasts. In this equipage they appeared three Sundays, were imprisoned for some time, and afterwards banished the realm."

IMPORTANT EDUCATIONAL MOVEMENT.

A meeting of a very interesting and important nature was held on Monday afternoon in the Mayor's parlour, at the Town-hall, Manchester, on the subject of education. It comprised the Dean, and a large number of the clergy, with several Wesleyan and Dissenting Ministers and the leading merchants and manufacturers of the town. The meeting was called by the Rev. C. Richardson, clerk in orders of the Cathedral, to consider a plan drawn up by himself and some members of the Church Education Society "to show the practicability of constructing an effective system of local education on the basis of plans now in operation." The Reverend the Dean took the chair, and the resolutions were proposed and seconded by Mr. Robert Gladstone, churchman; the Reverend Mr. Poore, Dissenting minister; the Reverend Mr. Guyther, Dissenting minister; Mr. C. E. Cunley, the Reverend Hugh Stowell, canon of Chester, and the Reverend S. Osborne, Wesleyan minister, the latter stating, "we must stick to our principles, but give up our prejudices," and were spoken to by the Reverend W. Birley, Mr. J. Heywood, M.P., Mr. Richard Birley, and others. The principal features of the plan are to make use of the unoccupied room in schools of the various religious denominations in Manchester and Salford; to provide for the contingent expenses by a local rate not exceeding 5d. in the pound, and the management to be by committees elected out of their own members by the municipal councils of the two boroughs. The religious convictions of all parties are to be respected and equally protected, by a guarantee that in all existing schools admitted into union with the district committee no creed or formula shall be taught to children to which their parents or lawful guardians may, in writing, object. In new schools erected by the Education Committee no distinctive creed is to be taught within the ordinary school hours, although daily reading of the Scriptures is to be provided for. The management of the latter schools is also to be exclusively by lay persons. The assistance of her Majesty's inspectors is to be obtained in estimating the educational wants of any locality, and no school is to be erected by the district committees or land purchased without the sanction of the Committee of Privy Council on Education.

HARSH POOR-LAW ADMINISTRATION.

In consequence of certain charges contained in the report of the chaplain of the Bath gaol to the city justices, at their last Michaelmas sessions, an enquiry has been going on, during the last three weeks,

before Mr. E. Gulson, the poor-law inspector of the district.

The report of the chaplain alleged that the regulations and system pursued by the guardians and their relieving officer were the cause of great destitution, misery, and crime; and that relief was given or refused at the mere whim and caprice of the relieving officer, regardless of the destitution of applicants. A large number of witnesses were called in the course of the investigation, and the depositions of several persons at present confined in the gaol taken. Amongst other things it was alleged that on one occasion a large number of boys and lads, who had no relations or friends whatever, were turned out of the workhouse without any means of support, and that on becoming destitute they were refused relief, and ultimately most of them suffered great misery, and many were sent to gaol, on charges of vagrancy, &c. Several of these lads were called as witnesses, and deposed to facts corroborative of the allegation.

The guardians, on the other hand, admitted the destitute state in which the lads had been, but contended that it was not the fault of the board—alleging that the boys on being asked expressed their wish to leave the house, and stated that they would get work if they did so; and that they were told on leaving, they might return within three days if they did not find employment. Another charge was the indiscriminate refusal of relief to able-bodied tramps. In 1847-8, the guardians, in consequence of the large number of vagrants applying for relief, instructed the relieving officer not to relieve any able-bodied vagrants. In consequence of the rigid observance of this article, persons really destitute appear to have been neglected, and several cases of breaches of the peace and thefts from want were committed in consequence. W. Sutcliffe, Esq., late mayor, gave evidence on this point, and deposed to several cases being brought before him, whilst mayor, of persons who were charged with vagrancy or theft after being refused relief, and who were so destitute that he had ordered money to be given them. The guardians, in justification of their conduct, pleaded the peculiar circumstances of the times, the country being overrun with vagrants, and the workhouse crowded, and that their course had been sanctioned by the poor-law board. At the close of the evidence, the commissioner said he should send it to the poor-law board in London, with such remarks appended as he thought proper, and the commissioners would consider the cases, and send down their decision.

THE DUTCH CROWN JEWELS.

The New York papers received by the last steam packet, contain a long account of certain proceedings relating to the robbery and ultimate recovery of the crown jewels of Holland, which do not reflect much credit on Dutch royalty. The jewels, which are said to have been stolen in 1829, were worth more than a million of dollars, and were crown jewels of the Princess of Orange, wife of the then heir apparent to the throne of Holland. She was a sister of the Emperor of Russia, and some of the jewels had been presented to her by that potentate. The Prince of Orange was in somewhat indifferent repute at that time, having acquired habits of dissipation and extravagance; and as the robbery for a long time could not be accounted for, there were some who did not refrain from directing suspicion towards his Royal Highness as being concerned in the affair. The thief (Polari or Carrera), was detected in New York in July, 1831, having fled thither with part of the stolen jewels, the rest having been buried in a wood near Brussels. He arrived in New York with a woman of bad character, who passed as his wife, and they had with them a young child. The jewels were concealed in the hollow handle of an umbrella, in a hollow crutch used by Polari, under the pretence of being lame, and in hollow toys of the child, and by these means they eluded the notice of the Custom-house officers. Shortly after their arrival in New York, the woman formed an intimacy with a Frenchman of notorious character named Roumage, and disclosed to him where some of the jewels had been buried by Polari near Brooklyn, and placed some of the least valuable of them in his possession. Roumage, who had become an adept in crime, forthwith resolved to profit by the information thus acquired, by giving information to the Chevalier Huygens, the Dutch minister, and thus secure the large reward advertised by the Dutch Government; and in order to have two strings to his bow, he also gave information to the New York Custom-house officers, he claiming the one-fourth part allowed by the acts of Congress to informers of smuggled goods. He exhibited the jewels in his possession, which were not of great value, to verify his statement; but the most valuable portion he took, after the arrest of Polari, from their place of concealment near Brooklyn, and fled with the woman to Philadelphia, and thence to Liverpool. The Dutch Minister at New York engaged the services of a Mr. Seeley, of New York, who apprehended Polari, and effected also, by extraordinary diligence and exertions, the arrest of Roumage and the woman, in Liverpool, and the recovery of the jewels they had with them. Roumage

and his female accomplice were sent to Holland from England, and the information obtained from them, with that obtained from Polari, through Mr. Seeley's agency, enabled the Dutch Government to recover the jewels buried near Brussels, as well as those obtained in Liverpool and in New York; and also afforded testimony to redeem the reputation of the Prince of Orange from the suspicions before adverted to.

Mr. Seeley then went to Holland, to procure the well-merited reward of his services; but the Dutch Government does not seem to have acted very honourably in the matter. They evaded, procrastinated, delayed, and trifled with him, and at last, if we are to believe the *Herald*, offered him 2400 dollars, when, as it affirms, 100,000 dollars would not have been an unreasonable sum for him to have charged. Mr. Seeley and the *Herald* both hold that the United States Government is bound to see that the King of Holland discharges this fair claim. The strictness with which Great Britain stands up for the rights of its subjects in foreign countries (as in Don Pacifico's case) is appealed to, as a noble example for America, and the issuing of letters of "marque and reprisal" against the property of the debtor government and of its subjects, is said to be "justified by the law of nations, and is declared not to be a just cause of war."

WARLIKE PREPARATIONS AT BUENOS AYRES.

Letters from Buenos Ayres of the 6th of November say:—Failures and insolvencies continue to be reported at Buenos Ayres, and amounted to £2,000,000. The expected war with Brazil was causing great anxiety and was the subject of the most contradictory rumours. To one person Rosas states that war is already actually declared; he assures others he has no idea of a campaign, and that the demonstrations made in the representative chambers and streets of Buenos Ayres are not to be regarded as serious. Whatever may be the real intentions of the Dictator, preparations for war are pushed forward with great expedition, but with equal secrecy. Artillery carriages are constructed, while it is given out that the wood is used in making wagons. The Italian house of Costi and Co. received a great quantity of bombs and ammunition by a commercial vessel from Anvers, on the 18th of October. It was asserted that, during his stay in Rio, General Guido came to an understanding with the Chargé d'Affaires of Naples, and contracted for the despatch of five thousand Sicilians to Buenos Ayres. The conditions of this transaction are not well known; it is only known that the volunteers are to be robust young men, trained to military duty, and that after the war they are to receive a reward of land. The expenses of the passage will be defrayed by the Neapolitan Government. This contract was sent, towards the end of July last, to Buenos Ayres by Guido, and received the approbation of Rosas; it was then returned to Rio, and the Neapolitan Chargé d'Affaires at once left for home to carry out the convention. Another contract was spoken of, according to which several thousand Irish volunteers were to be enrolled and brought over.

THE FORREST DIVORCE CASE.

This case still occupies the public mind in America. Mr. Forrest's affidavit, in which he gives the most circumstantial evidence of his wife's infidelity, has been met by counter affidavits from Mrs. Forrest, Mr. N. P. Willis, Mr. Park, Goodwin, and a number of other gentlemen, all of whom had been directly implicated in the charges made by the husband. As the statements are in direct contradiction to each other, and as there appears to be very little evidence in support of Mr. Forrest's allegations, one can hardly help concluding that he must be partially insane. The origin of all his hatred to his wife and her relations is attributed by Mrs. Voorhees, his sister-in-law—whose character he also vilifies—to his jealousy of Mr. Macready. All who did not go along with him in that monstrous exhibition of morbid self-esteem were set down as his enemies, and his wife, unfortunately, appears to have been one of the number.

The case is now before the Supreme Court, on a motion on the part of Mr. Forrest, to dissolve the injunction granted in the suit for divorce commenced by Mrs. Forrest against him. He wants to have the case tried in Pennsylvania. This she opposes. Mrs. Forrest, in her affidavit, states she is in bodily fear of injury from her husband. On one occasion she says:—

"The said Edwin Forrest overtook this deponent, and entered into conversation with her, and, declining to go into the house, kept this deponent in the public streets, walking with him, and hearing and replying to his statements, for more than two hours; although it was raining nearly all the time, and neither this deponent nor said Edwin Forrest had any umbrella.

"In the course of said conversation the said Edwin Forrest spoke very rudely and violently to this deponent, saying to her at times, 'You ought to die,' 'Why don't you die?' and at other times uttering imprecations against her for living and continuing in his way.

"This deponent further says, on information and belief, that the said Edwin Forrest hath been for a length

of time in the habit of prowling about the door of this deponent's said dwelling-house, in the night time, with sticks, clubs, or similar weapons in his hands, and that, being without any male protector in said house, she is greatly apprehensive of some sudden act of violence from his hands to her great bodily injury.

"She further says that he, the said Edwin Forrest, is a person of great physical strength, and she greatly apprehends that, whenever he shall have become aware of the fact that her personal absence from the State of Pennsylvania may be an obstacle to the gratification of his intention to subject this deponent to the jurisdiction of the courts of that State, he will, by himself alone, or by and with the aid of other persons employed by him for that purpose, attempt suddenly to seize and remove this deponent from and out of the State of New York, and that such attempt may be successful, or may involve some great bodily harm to this deponent."

In the same document she states that Mr. Forrest has a clear income of six thousand dollars from property he has purchased, but she fears that he will take steps to sell or transfer it in some such way as to prevent her obtaining any allowance from it, unless a divorce is speedily obtained.

A WEEK AMONG THE EMIGRANT SHIPS AT LIVERPOOL.

No. 2.—Individual Emigration.

Lincoln, Oct. 30, 1850.

SIR,—I concluded my last letter by recommending those who intend to emigrate to avail themselves of the example of the Germans, who have for some time past had in operation a well-arranged plan of associative emigration. I also detailed some facts which had fallen under my own observation, showing the great advantages to be derived from co-operation directed by intelligence and good management. I am thoroughly convinced that association is the only thing to make a voyage to the New World anything like agreeable, or even endurable.* But the majority are helpless, and cannot, or do not, understand how union is to be effected, and, consequently, are necessitated to suffer the painful hardships attending individualism. It is for the benefit of this class that I write this article to instruct them how the expense, discomfort, and anxiety, which to so painful an extent falls to the lot of the individual emigrant, may be mitigated, if not entirely removed. Though comparatively unknown, yet are the details of the deplorable condition of emigrants, by the wrongs inflicted upon them at the ports at which they embark—the privations and want, the sickness and mortality on shipboard, truly heartrending, and call aloud for succour. Having thoroughly decided upon emigrating, the first thing necessary is to make proper provision for any emergency which might occur. In the first place I advise the emigrant to take as little luggage as possible, confining himself to wearing apparel, bedding, and the essential implements or mechanics' tools required by his trade. He should sell all his feather beds, and use straw ones on board. A straw bed may be purchased near any of the docks at Liverpool from 1s. 6d. or 1s. 10d., and will be most suitable. He should provide himself with a large deal chest, well bound at the corners with sheet iron: this chest will contain such articles as will be needed for the voyage, and will also serve for a table. It is essential that a good lock be put upon it. He should look into all the old garments he may have put away; these thrown into a bag will do to wear during the voyage. Another box must be provided, large enough to contain the wearing apparel of himself and family, required for use immediately on landing on the other side. All articles which are not wanted on the voyage should be well secured in boxes or tea chests, and corded; these will be stowed in the hold, and not brought up during the passage.

Liverpool is the principal and best port. Ships sail from thence to New York at least once a week, and to Philadelphia, Boston, and New Orleans about three times a month. The days of sailing are usually advertised in the Liverpool newspapers; large posting bills are also pasted on the walls, pretending to announce the days of sailing; but he must not trust to these. On arriving at the port of embarkation he will be pestered by persons offering him their advice and assistance; these are runners, and the emigrant should have nothing whatever to say to them, either in the matter of the ship, boarding houses, or procuring provisions, but should go direct to some respectable house, where, having secured his luggage, he will be at liberty to look about and make such arrangements as will prevent his being detained for a length of time in port. He should choose a good

* Amongst the advantages attending the adoption of this plan of emigration, the most obvious are, an essential mitigation of the temporary inconveniences and privations attending the voyage, the saving of expense, as well as perplexity and anxiety, together with a measure of security against ultimate disappointment and failure, and the removal of those serious disadvantages to which the individual emigrant is exposed.

sized vessel, and one having high bulwarks, otherwise he will be frequently liable of being drenched with sea water, oftener than he will like. The bulwarks should be at least six feet high. In choosing a berth he should select one near the midsips, that is, near the main hatchway. Females should, of course, choose an under berth. A card, with the name written upon it, should be tacked to the berth. A curtain put up before the berth, and brought out a reasonable distance (which will be allowed) forms a state room. The chest and box already named will serve as seat and table. Some nails driven at suitable places about the berth will do to hang things upon. Everything must be made fast or the first rough sea will remind the negligent of their negligence. Cooking utensils made of tin will be required. A frying pan (small one, or it will not fit the fire) with a short handle, kettle, a tin pot to make coffee, gruel, &c. This should have one flat side with a hook that it may hang in front of the fire-teapot, bowl with handle, can to hold the daily allowance of water, baking-pan of a small size, bread-tin, iron spoons, knives and forks, wooden brine tub, lantern, lamp, and bottle of oil.

Provisions should be attended to last, and in this matter the greatest caution is necessary. Provisions in Liverpool, if obtained at ship stores, are dearer in price and worse in quality than in Lincoln and Lincolnshire. Soda-biscuits there are 5s. per stone, and best sea-biscuits are 3s. 6d. per stone; though at any respectable shop the latter may be had for 2s. 6d., being 1s. less than is charged at the provision stores in the Waterloo-road and the neighbourhood contiguous to the Docks. In Lincoln and in Lincolnshire all kinds of provisions, quality considered, are much cheaper than at Liverpool. Mr. Howard, miller and baker, of this city, showed me some samples of biscuit much superior to that sold by provision-dealers in Liverpool, at the following prices:—Superfine, 6s. per stone; good sea-biscuit, 2s. 6d., 2s. 3d., and 2s. 2d.; and dog-biscuit, which is the common meal biscuit, very good, 1s. 6d. per stone. In coffee, teas, cheese, &c. &c., prices are higher than in Lincolnshire. I therefore recommend emigrants to purchase their provisions before starting for the place of embarkation. The stock usually required for one person for a voyage to New York should be sufficient to last for six weeks at least, and should be conveyed on board by the emigrant himself, or by some conveyance immediately under his own eye. He ought to take cooked victuals enough to last the first week, besides four pecks of potatoes, two stones of flour, three stones of biscuit, 2lb. of coffee, 1lb. of tea, 2lb. of butter, 6lb. of rice, 30 eggs, and 14lb. of good bacon; a bottle of brandy, a bed, bedding, mess utensils, &c. A little medicine, too, is indispensable: a box of bilious pills, some Epsom salts, and a small bottle of castor oil will do. Onions are very wholesome, boiled and mashed up with potatoes. I am told that milk may be reduced to a dry powder by simmering it until all the watery particles are evaporated.

The strictest attention from the beginning should be paid to the state of the bowels, and personal cleanliness. The inconvenience of the situation sometimes causes persons to neglect the dictates of nature, and then confirmed costiveness follows, one of the great causes of sickness on shipboard.

Attention to the simple instructions I have ventured to offer will do something to mitigate the evils of the voyage. On arrival in port, the sea-garments worn on the passage, and the straw and bed tick, should be thrown overboard, and the emigrant get himself ready for inspection by the health officer. By this time the runners will be either on board or alongside—the same in roguery and rapacity as those at Liverpool. Have nothing whatever to say to them; but if advice and assistance are needed, application should immediately be made at the office of the British Protective Emigrant Society, No. 17, Rector-street, New York (in Philadelphia, at 95, South Front-street), where the emigrant will receive correct information and advice free of charge, relative to routes, expenses of travelling, and all matters appertaining to his prospects in a strange land. Neither the society nor any of its members have anything to do in promoting emigration, nor with any agent or company connected with the purchase or disposal of lands to emigrants, before or after their arrival; nor is it associated, either directly or indirectly, with any party engaged in the business of forwarding emigrant passengers. The applicants to the British Protective Emigrant Society for situations, from its commencement, have been as follows:—English, 2268—employment obtained for, 1751; Scotch, 630—ditto, 487; Irish, 1703—ditto, 1123; Welsh, 120—ditto, 97; Canada, Nova Scotia, and West Indies, 75—ditto, 48; besides 70,000 who have applied for advice, and whose names are registered.

The emigrant having safely arrived and obtained honest employment, will do well to make himself acquainted with the form of Government, and endeavour to imbibe the spirit and genius of the institutions of his adopted country.

I am, Sir, yours devotedly in the cause of universal humanity,
WILLIAM BELLATTO.

THE QUARTER'S REVENUE.

AN ABSTRACT OF THE NET PRODUCE OF THE REVENUE OF GREAT BRITAIN IN THE YEARS AND QUARTERS ENDED JAN. 5, 1850, AND JAN. 5, 1851, SHOWING THE INCREASE OR DECREASE THEREOF.

	YEARS ENDED JAN. 5.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1850.	1851.	£.	£.
Customs.....	18,695,798	18,614,880	—	80,918
Excise.....	12,753,815	13,093,961	340,146	—
Stamps.....	6,365,475	6,095,641	—	269,834
Taxes.....	4,303,849	4,360,178	56,329	—
Property-tax.....	5,408,159	5,383,037	—	25,122
Post-office.....	806,000	830,000	24,000	—
Crown Lands.....	160,000	160,000	—	—
Miscellaneous.....	249,242	178,552	—	70,690
Total Ord. Rev.....	48,742,338	48,616,310	320,475	446,564
Imprest and other Money.....	559,457	631,447	131,990	—
Repayments of Advances.....	549,597	708,618	159,021	—
Total Income.....	49,851,392	50,016,314	611,486	446,564
Deduct Decrease.....	—	—	—	446,564
Increase on the Year.....	—	—	164,922	—

QUARTERS ENDED JAN. 5.

	1850.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1850.	1851.	£.	£.
Customs.....	4,720,630	4,596,705	—	123,925
Excise.....	3,625,061	3,715,920	90,859	—
Stamps.....	1,509,860	1,459,721	—	50,139
Taxes.....	1,897,961	1,993,053	95,092	—
Property-tax.....	449,394	418,730	—	30,664
Post-office.....	152,000	152,000	—	—
Crown Lands.....	60,000	60,000	—	—
Miscellaneous.....	68,408	20,391	—	38,017
Total Ord. Rev.....	12,473,314	12,346,590	115,951	242,745
Imprest Money, &c.....	125,087	132,216	7,159	—
Repayments of Advances.....	124,909	133,116	10,207	—
Total Income.....	12,723,310	12,613,882	133,317	242,745
Deduct Increase.....	—	—	—	133,317
Decrease on the Quarter.....	—	—	—	109,428

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEWS PAPER STAMP ABOLITION COMMITTEE, 15, ESSEX-STREET, STRAND.

Treasurer, FRANCIS PLACE, Brompton-square; Sub-Treasurer, JAMES WATSON, 3, Queen's Head-passages, Paternoster-row; Chairman, RICHARD MOORE, 25, Hart-street, Bloomsbury. Committee—William Addicott, shopman and traveller, 4, Navarino-grove, Dalston; John Bainbridge, upholsterer, Goodge-street; Henry Campkin, Librarian, Reform Club; William Isaac Carlos, Jeweller, 8, Great Russell-street; George Dawson, minister, Birmingham; Thomas Donnelly, decorator, 36, Frederick-street, Hampstead-road; Henry Edgar, solicitor, 2, Verulam-buildings; Edward Edwards, printer, 8, Wellington-street, Goswell-street; Charles H. Eit, bookseller, Islington-green; George Hooper, office clerk, 10, Holles-place, Hampstead-road; James Hoppey, cabinetmaker, 4, Greek-street, Soho; George Jacob Holyoake, lecturer, 1, Woburn-buildings, Tavistock-square; Joseph Hyde, bookbinder, 16, Copenhagen-street, Islington; Robert Le Blond, wholesale stationer, 24, Budge-row; Christopher McGuinness, relieving officer, Metropolitan-buildings; Henry Mitchell, wood-carver, College-place, Brompton; John Parker, cheese-monger, 9, Walter-place, Caledonian-road; Charles Schomburgk, clerk and collector, 21, John-street, Adelphi; James Staunfeld, barrister-at-law, Sidney-place, Brompton; Thomas Wilson, wood-carver, 6, Tottenham-street, Fitzroy-square.

J. C. DOBSON COLLET, 15, Essex-street, Strand, Secretary.

This Committee was formed March 7, 1849. Its object is to obtain the exemption of the press from all taxation, and its emancipation from all control, except that of a court of law. Its endeavours are directed to effect the repeal of all taxes on knowledge, and particularly that of the penny stamp, by collecting and distributing information on the subject, and by influencing all organized bodies of reformers to petition the House of Commons in favour of the freedom of the press.

The taxes on knowledge consist of—

The duty on foreign books, which, in the year	£	s.	d.
1849, produced.....	7,701	11	4
The duty on paper.....	867,120	11	74
The duty on advertisements.....	128,164	16	0
The penny stamp on newspapers.....	330,289	9	4d.
Deduct.....	6,169	2	3 for
expense of stamping, and say.....	191,120	7	1 for
that of the Post-office.....	150,000	0	0
	£1,183,036	7	74

In addition to these burdens, the proprietor of a newspaper is bound to give security to pay any damages that may be awarded against him in case of libel—a system which seems to infer that to publish a newspaper is of itself evidence of an intention to break the law.

The Committee have distributed about 50,000 of the following tracts, of which copies may still be had at the office in Essex-street:—

Address to the Parliamentary Reformers, June 29, 1849; Circular (three editions), June 30, Sept. 19, Oct. 10, 1849; Extract from the *Athenaeum*, Sept., 1849; Speech of Edward Edwards at Meeting of Printers, Sept., 1849; Instructions to District Secretaries, Nov. 18, 1849; First Report of the Committee, Feb. 1, 1850; Petition of the Committee to the House of Commons, Feb. 1, 1850; Form of Petition (general), Feb. 1, 1850; Deputation to the Premier, March 12, 1850; Second Petition to the House of Commons, June, 1850; Address to the London Stamped Press, July 2, 1850.

The number of petitions in 1849 was—

	Petitions.	Signatures.
Against the duty on foreign books.....	1	1
Against the duty on paper.....	30	2,325
Against the duties on newspapers.....	1	41
Against the penny stamp on newspapers.....	1	3
Against the taxes on knowledge generally.....	11	1,087
Total.....	44	3,457

In 1850 the numbers were as below:—

Against the duty on advertisements.....	93	1,162
Against the duty on paper.....	23	6,144
Against the penny stamp on newspapers.....	15	687
For enquiry into the penny stamp on newspapers.....	1	3
Against the whole of the taxes on knowledge.....	183	21,080
	314	29,056

The following is a list of district secretaries. The Committee are anxious to fill up this list, which is far from complete; it ought to amount to 500. It is also important that secretaries should be found for the metropolitan districts, which as yet are unorganized:—

Bedford: Rowland Hill; Belfast: James Reed, 43, Academy-street; Birmingham: Thomas Baker, 14, Russell-row, Ladywood-lane; President: William Scholefield, Esq., M.P. Treasurer: Mr. Baldwin; Boston: J. Bontoft, bookseller; Bradford: S. Pickles, Belgrave-place, Manningham; Brighton: W. Woodward, bookseller; Bristol: E. H. Matthews, 44, Broad-quay; Cambridge: W. J. Hatfield, 19, New-square; Carlisle: William Bowman, 60, Union-street, London-road; Chelsea: E. Mills, Sloane-square; Chichester: J. Underdown, ironmonger, South-street; City: J. Robinson, 3, Gould-square, Crutched Friars; Clifton: A. T. Wattson, 17, Lower Portland-place; Cork: P. Tuohy, Examiner-office, Patrick-street; Coventry: W. Spencer, Herald-office; Deptford: J. Morgan, 39, Butcher-row; Dundee: James Valentine, Murray-gate; Diss: F. R. Young, Fallowfield; T. Hayes, Mill-lane; Glasgow: James Calder, 37, West College-street; Gloucester: P. Mansell; Hackney: William Addicott, 4, Navarino-grove, Dalston; Huddersfield: John Cowgill, King-street; Islington: C. H. Eit, Islington-green; Kilmarnock: William McKay, Journal-office, King-street; Leeds: Henry Lundey, Times-office; Liverpool: William Lewis, Paddenbank-square, Edge-hill; Manchester: Joseph Boyer, 5, Greenbank-square, Broughton-road; Nailsworth: William Smith; Newcastle-on-Tyne: James Selkirk, Grey-street; Northampton: J. Gurney, Gold-street; Portsmouth: James Shepherd, St. Mary-street; Preston: John Livesey, Guardian-office; Reading: George Hooper, Independent-office; Scarborough: C. Meadley, 11, Friars-street, Queen-street; Sheffield: Creswick Corbitt, India-terrace, Portman-street; Sligo: A. M. Lyons, Champion-office; Southampton: G. W. Dleehley, 31, Oxford-street; South Shields: W. Bulmer, Gazette-office; Street: James Clark; Sunderland: J. Williams, Bridge-street; Bishop Wearmouth: Taristock: W. Robjohn; Warwick: John Burford, Westgate; Wells: S. T. Prin, Working Men's Institution; Westminster: George Huggatt, 4, Beaufort-buildings, Strand; Wigan: J. W. Gleighway, Times-office; Woburn: John Pearson, perfumer; Worcester: N. H. Rea, Herald-office; Wymondham: W. H. Taylor.

The Committee have the pleasure of reporting a very considerable progress, and of acknowledging a great deal of valuable support, particularly from the *Daily News*, from the inhabitants of Sheffield and Birmingham, and from Messrs. Cobden, Scholefield, Ewart, and Cowan.

To Mr. T. Milner Gibson they tender their most sincere thanks for the able and efficient manner in which he brought forward the question. Nothing more can be desired than that the steps already taken should be fully carried out, and the Taxes on Knowledge can scarcely fail of being numbered with the things that were.

The debate of the 16th of April was remarkable for the total abandonment of the doctrine that the restrictions on the press were productive of any moral or political benefit; the only argument used was the necessity of keeping sufficient revenue to pay the interest of the National Debt—a necessity which this Committee does not pretend to deny, but which forms no reply to a demand for a new adjustment of taxation. The increase of knowledge would help us materially to pay the debt, or at least to bear its weight.

The following is the list of the division, taken from the Parliamentary vote paper of April 16:—

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1850.

Paper Duty.—Motion made, and Question put, "That whereas all taxes which directly impede the diffusion of knowledge are highly injurious to the public interest, and are most impolitic sources of revenue, this House is of opinion, that such financial arrangements ought to be made as will enable Parliament to repeal the Excise Duty on Paper."—Mr. Milner Gibson:—The House divided; Ayes 89, Noes 190.

AYES.

Adair, Hugh Edward Forbes, William Mundy, William
Adair, R. A. Shafto Fox, Wm. Johnson Naas, Lord
Alec, Thomas Galway, Viscount Nugent, Lord
Baillie, H. J. Granby, Marquis of O'Brien, Sir Lucius
Bennet, Philip Greenall, Gilbert O'Connor, Fearus
Hereford, William Greene, John Pechell, Sir G. B.
Best, John Guernsey, Lord Pilkington, James
Blair, Stephen Gwyn, Howell Portal, Melville
Blewitt, Reginald J. Hall, Sir Benjamin Prime, Richard
Boldero, H. George Hastie, Alexander Ricardo, John L.
Booth, Sir R. Gore Heyworth, Lawrence Roebuck, John A.
Bright, John Hildyard, Rob. C. Rushout, Captain
Bruen, Colonel Hill, Lord Edwin Sadleir, John
Chatterton, Colonel Hodgson, W. N. Salwey, Colonel
Cobden, Richard Hope, Henry Thos. Scholefield, William
Cole, Hon. H. Arthur Hume, Joseph Symer, Henry Ker
Compton, H. Combe Keating, Robert Smith, John Benj.
Conolly, Thomas King, Hon. P. J. L. Stanford, John F.
Crawford, Wm. S. Lawless, Hon. Cecil Stanley, Hon. E. H.
Devereux, J. Thomas Lennox, Lord A. G. Stuart, Lord D.
Diara, Benjamin Lennox, Lord H. G. Stuart, John
Dod, John Whitchall Lenz, Walter Thompson, Colonel
Duncan, George Lushington, Charles Thompson, George
Duncombe, Thomas Mackenzie, W. F. Trelawny, John S.
Edwards, Henry McGregor, John Vyse, R. H. R. H.
Ellis, John Manners, Lord John Waddington, H. S.
Ewart, William Marshall, J. G. Walmsley, Sir J.
Fergus, William Lennox, Lord A. G. Stuart, Lord D.
Fellower, Edward Movatt, Francis Williams, John
Filmer, Sir Edmund Mullings, Joseph R. Wyld, James

Tellers for the Ayes, Mr. Milner Gibson and Mr. Cowan.

NOES.

Abdy, Sir Thomas N. Fordyce, A. D. Milner, W. M. E.
Aglionby, Henry A. Forster, M. Milnes, Richard M.
Anson, Hon. Colonel Fortescue, C. Mitchell, T. A.
Armstrong, Sir A. Fortescue, H. J. W. Monell, William
Bagehall, John Fox, S. W. L. Morison, Sir W.
Baines, Rt. Hon. M. T. Freeston, Colonel Morris, David
Baring, Rt. Hon. Sir F. Frewen, Charles H. Mostyn, Hn. E. M. L.
Baring, Thomas Goddard, A. L. Mulgrave, Earl of

Bass, Michael Thomas Goulburn, Rt. Hon. H. Norreys, Lord
Bellew, Richard M. Grace, O. D. J. Ogle, Savile C. H.
Berkeley, Admiral Greene, Thomas Ord, William
Berkeley, C. L. G. Grenfell, C. Pascoe Paget, Lord Alfred
Bernal, Ralph Grenfell, Charles W. Paget, Lord Clarence
Birch, Sir T. Bernard Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir G. Paget, Lord George
Blackall, Samuel W. Grosvenor, Earl Packington, Sir J.
Blake, Martin J. Quest, Sir John Palmerston, Visct.
Blakemore, Richard Halford, Sir Henry Parker, John
Bowles, Admiral Hamner, Sir John Patten, John W.
Brampton, E. D. Harcourt, George H. Peel, Hon. Sir R.
Brotherton, Joseph Hardcastle, J. A. Peel, Frederick
Brown, Rob. Dillon Harris, Richard Perfect, Robert
Busfield, William Hastie, Archibald Pigott, Francis
Campbell, Hn. W. F. Hatchell, John Plowden, W. H. C.
Carter, John Bonham Hawes, Benjamin Plumpire, J. P.
Chaplin, William J. Hayes, Sir Edmund Power, Nicholas
Childers, John W. Hayter, Rt. Hon. W. G. Rawdon, Colonel
Clements, Hon. C. S. Headlam, T. E. Reid, Colonel
Clerk, Rt. Hon. Sir G. Heald, James Rich, Henry
Clifford, Henry M. Heathcote, John Romilly, Colonel
Clive, Henry B. Hennessy, G. H. W. Romilly, Sir John
Cobbold, John C. Henry, Alexander Russell, Lord John
Cockburn, A. J. E. Herbert, R. Arthur Russell, Fr. C. H.
Coke, Hon. E. K. Herbert, Rt. Hon. S. Rutherford, Andrew
Colborne, Sir T. E. Hobhouse, Rt. Hon. S. C. Poulett
Coles, Henry B. Sir John Seymour, Lord
Cowper, Hon. W. B. Hothouse, T. B. Shafte, R. D.
Craig, Sir W. Gibson Hodges, T. Law Slaney, Robert A.
Crowder, Richard B. Hodges, T. Twissden Smith, Rt. Hn. R. V.
Cubitt, William Holland, Robert Smith, John Abel
Dairymple, Captain Hotham, Lord Somerville, Rt. Hon.
Davie, Sir H. R. F. Howard, Lord E. Sir William M.
Dawson, T. V. Howard, Hn. C. W. G. Spearman, H. J.
Denison, John E. Howard, Philip H. Thornfield, W. C.
D'Eyncourt, Rt. Hon. Inglis, Sir R. H. Strickland, Sir G.
C. T. Jervis, Sir John Stuart, Lord James
Drumlanrig, Viscount Johnstone, Sir John Stuart, Henry
Duff, George Skene Jones, Captain Talbot, J. Hyacinth
Duff, James Keogh, William Tancred, Henry W.
Duke, Sir James Labouchere, Rt. Hon. Thelness, R. A.
Dunlop, John Henry Thelness, R. A.
Dundas, Admiral Langston, J. H. Townshend, Hn. F. J.
Dundas, Rt. Hon. Sir D. Lancelotti, Hn. W. S. Townshend, Captain
Ebrington, Viscount Lewis, G. Cornwall Tufnell, Henry
Egerton, Sir Philip Lindsay, Hn. Colonel Vane, Lord Harry
Elliot, Hon. John E. Littleton, Hn. E. B. Verney, Sir Harry
Estcourt, J. B. D. Locke, Joseph Walter, John
Evans, John Loveden, Pryse Watkins, Col. L.
Evans, William Lygon, Hn. General Wegg-Prosser, F. R.
Evelyn, William J. Mackie, John Wellesley, Lord C.
Farrer, James M'Neil, Duncan Wilcox, B. M'Ghie
Fergus, John M'Taggart, Sir J. Wilson, James
Ferguson, Sir Rob. A. Mahon, Viscount Wilson, Mathew
FitzPatrick, Rt. Hon. Mangier, R. D. Wood, Rt. Hon. Sir C.
J. W. Matheson, Colonel Wrighton, W. B.
Foley, John H. H. Maule, Rt. Hon. Fox Wylie, Marmaduke
Tellers for the Noes, Lord Marcus Hill and Mr. Grey.

The present system of managing the divisions in the House of Commons merits the reprobation of all true men. Members calling themselves liberal support their principles by their votes, only when there is no chance of success. The accession of Mr. Disraeli and about forty Conservatives to our cause occasioned the secession of a number of Liberals (?) who would have voted in our favour had they been sure of being defeated. Among these were Mr. Collins, who, in presenting one of our petitions from Leamington, had promised us his support, and Mr. E. P. Bouverie, who on a later occasion divided in a minority of 39 to 208 in favour of Mr. Ewart's motion for the repeal of the advertisement duty.

We have also to record the hostile votes of Mr. Aglionby, one of the oldest supporters of our cause; of Mr. Henry, the President of the Lancashire School Association; of Mr. Monckton Milnes, who had actually, at our invitation, accompanied us in our deputation to Lord John Russell; and of Mr. W. Keogh, who a few days before had written to one of his constituents the following letter, which is now in our possession:—

"Regenville Bray, March 23, 1850.

"My dear Sir,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your favour, enclosing prospectus of Newspaper Stamp Abolition Committee. I have no hesitation in assuring you that any proposal to facilitate the spread of knowledge amongst all classes of the people has my warmest approbation, and I concur with you in thinking that the removal, or at all events, a substantial modification of the duty on advertisements and newspapers ought to be conceded by Parliament. I give you, with great pleasure, full authority to place my name amongst the list of gentlemen engaged in supporting what I believe to be a measure as well of justice as of policy, and believe me, my dear Sir, very faithfully yours, "WILLIAM KEOGH."

"Make any use you like of the enclosed.—W. K."

Of the supporters of Mr. Hume's motion for the extension of the suffrage, 27 opposed Mr. Gibson, and 48 staid away, so that as many as 75 members of the House of Commons have committed themselves to the position of vindicating popular rights while they obstruct popular intelligence.

TWENTY-SEVEN OPPONENTS.

Aglionby, H. Evans, J. Keogh, W.
Bass, M. T. Freeston, Colonel Milner, W. M.
Berkeley, C. L. G. Grenfell, C. P. Strickland, Sir G.
Blake, M. J. Hardcastle, J. Talbot, J. H.
Brotherton, J. Harris, R. Tancred, H.
Clifford, H. M. Hastie, Arch. Thornely, T.
Cockburn, A. J. E. Hodges, T. L. Wilcox, B.
D'Eyncourt, Rt. Hon. Hodges, T. T. Wilson, M.
C. T. Headlam, T.
Duke, Sir J. Henry, A.

FORTY-EIGHT ABSENTEES.

Anderson, A. Horsman, E. Pearson, C.
Armstrong, R. B. Humphrey, Ald. J. Peto, S. M.
Berkeley, Hon. B. Jackson, W. Peto, Dr. M.
Berkeley, Hon. G. King, Hon. P. J. L. Reynolds, J.
Bouverie, Rt. Hon. M'Collough, W. T. Scully, E. B.
Brown, W. J. P. Martin, S. Snythe, Hon. G.
Caulfield, J. M. Marshall, W. Somers, J. F.
Clay, J. Neaghter, T. Moffatt, G. Sullivan, M.
Collins, W. Munts, G. F. Tension, E. K.
Currie, R. O'Brien, Sir T. Tennent, R. J.
Dashwood, Sir G. H. O'Connell, J. Villiers, Hon. C. P.
Evans, Sir D. E. O'Connell, M. W. Ashley, T.
Granger, T. C. O'Connell, M. J. Waddy, T.
Grattan, H. O'Flaherty, A. Wyllye, W. P.
Hindley, C. Osborne, R. B. Wood, W. P.

We cannot doubt that the continuance of the taxes on knowledge is mainly owing to the support given to them by the Liberal party. They form the real strength of the present Government, and might easily have compelled the abandonment of taxes for which neither the Chancellor of the Exchequer nor the Premier vouchsafed a word of eulogy or approbation. From this censure must be excepted those who voted in the minority, and especially those who supported us in an interview with the Premier, viz., Messrs. Cobden, Gibson, Mowatt, Kershaw, and McGregor.

If this remark be thought too strong as regards the paper duty, it is at any rate unimpeachable so far as the penny stamp is concerned; the net amount of this tax is not more than £150,000, and it is reasonable to suppose that if this were abandoned, the loss might be made up by admitting all publications to a cheap rate of postage.

The repeal of the paper and advertisement duties being put out of the question for the session, we devoted our exertions to the investigation of the working of the stamp. So early as February last, Mr. Gibson had obtained a return of fifty-one registered newspapers which stamped only their country edition. This is clearly illegal; if they are newspapers, the law requires them to stamp every copy, and if they are not they have no right to the benefit of the post, which the law accords only to stamped newspapers, and in no way to mere publications. If the Stamp-office have the power of granting this privilege to fifty-one newspapers, they must have the power of extending the privilege to the whole newspaper press, and are bound in justice to do so.

At our suggestion, Mr. Thornton Hunt, of the *Leader*, Mr. Charles Bray, of the *Coventry Herald*, and Mr. Thomas Allan, of the *Caledonian Mercury*, demanded this privilege from the Board of Inland Revenue. The reply made to these gentlemen was, that the fifty-one registered newspapers were not newspapers at all, an assertion so intrepid as to merit respect for its courage if not for its truth. Nearly the whole of this correspondence has been published in the *Daily News* and *Caledonian Mercury*; we however, insert the following letters:—

"Inland Revenue, Somerset-house, London, July 21, 1850.

"SIR,—I have laid before the board your memorial, in which you observe that, according to a return made to the House of Commons, certain registered newspapers are permitted to stamp only a portion of their impression, and requesting that that privilege be extended to all registered newspapers. In reply, I am directed to inform you that you are mistaken in supposing that any permission is granted by this board in the cases referred to or any other. The papers you allude to are not newspapers, though registered as such; and the publishers could not be prosecuted for printing a portion or the whole of their copies without stamps, to which penalties the publisher of a newspaper, properly so called, would be subject."

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
"Mr. Thomas Allan. "Your obedient servant,
"Mr. Charles Bray. "THOMAS KEOGH.

"Inland Revenue, Somerset-house, London, Sep. 23, 1850.

"SIR,—I have laid before the board the representation enclosed in your letter of the 17th instant, signed by you and other proprietors of newspapers desiring from this board permission to issue a portion of your publications on unstamped paper. In reply, I am directed to state that the board have no power whatever to grant to the publisher of any newspaper permission to publish a portion of the copies thereof without the stamps to which they are liable; and you are mistaken in assuming that any permission of the kind has been granted in any instance."

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
"Mr. Thornton Hunt. "THOMAS KEOGH.

Contrast these letters with the following from the same board to Mr. Scholefield, on the subject of the threatened prosecution of the *Freeholder*:—

"Inland Revenue, Somerset-house, May 3, 1850.

"SIR,—I have laid before the Board of Inland Revenue your letter of the 21st instant, relative to a communication made by this department to the publisher of a paper called the *Freeholder*. In reply, I am directed to inform you that the board hold that a paper containing public news, intelligence, or occurrences, is a newspaper, without reference to the intervals of its publication, and they are so advised by the law officers of the Crown. The *Freeholder* is registered at this office as a newspaper, an appropriated stamp is provided for it, and stamps are issued to the publisher, as for a newspaper, which he would not be entitled to receive if it were not registered. A portion of each publication is printed on stamps, and another portion without stamps, to which latter proceeding the board object, considering that, both in respect of its registration and its contents, it is subject to the newspaper duty. With regard to this paper having been singled out for a peculiar application of the law, I am to observe that such a notion is entirely without foundation, and that the same rule will be observed with regard to any similar publication which shall come under the board's notice."

"I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
"William Scholefield, Esq. "THOMAS KEOGH.

We should be unjust were we not to record our obligations to Mr. Charles Dickens, who has now, for some months, published a monthly newspaper, called the *Household Narrative of Current Events*, in direct violation of the law. Mr. Cornwall Lewis stated some months ago, in the House of Commons, that a Government prosecution was in progress against this newspaper, but this has not deterred Mr. Dickens from its publication. The experience of the year has convinced us that the Government dare not enforce the Stamp Act against any gentleman of Mr. Dickens's popularity, or against any publisher possessing the capital and the energy of Messrs. Bradbury and Evans; the continuous existence of *Punch* and of the *Household Narrative* are sufficient evidences of this point. The *Household Narrative* comes under the clause of the 6 and 7 W. IV., cap. 76, which forbids all publication of news without a stamp. *Punch* comes under that clause which forbids the publication of comments except at intervals of twenty-six days.

While the law is thus violated wholesale with impunity in London, lapses on the part of country newspapers are occasionally visited severely. Not long ago the proprietor of the *Wakefield Examiner* was threatened with a fine of £40,000, which was eventually commuted for £10, for publishing some slips containing news from this paper, a practice never objected to in London. This injustice is the harder when it is recollected that isolated reports, though legally coming under the head of news and requiring a stamp, are constantly issued by booksellers. In fact, the newspaper act is so oppressive, that in order to get rid of it nothing is necessary but that an attempt should be made to enforce it strictly; we recommend, therefore, that all persons desirous of aiding the cause should apply themselves to the work of finding out cases of breach of the stamp law, and report them to the Board of Inland Revenue at Somerset-house, they need be under no apprehension of unpleasant consequences to any except the Board of Commissioners, who are already so involved that they can neither move nor stand still without sinking deeper in the mire in which their own conduct, joined to the impracticability of the law, has already placed them.

While directing our chief efforts against the stamp, which is at once the key stone and the weak point of the taxes on knowledge, we are anxious not to relax in our exertions for the total repeal of the paper and advertisement duties. The whole question will be vigorously pushed in the House of Commons by Mr. M. Gibson; if the people do their duty by petitioning, and the electors look after their representatives, we shall have no cause to complain.

In conclusion, we urge every body of reformers to add the repeal of the penny stamp to its list of objects, and to petition vigorously and earnestly; no good cause exists which would not be benefited by a measure which would confer on the people a press at once cheap and good. And this is the most appropriate time to call out for more light, when priests are exciting to religious discord, and politicians are throwing dust in the eyes of the people. The real obstacle to freedom of thought dwells not in Rome but in London. The true man of sin is the Secretary to the Board of Inland Revenue; the true "scarlet abomination" is the red mark on our newspapers; Somerset-house is the Vatican we have to dread; the Excise-office is the Inquisition we have to destroy, and the taxes on knowledge are the real fetters which "confine the intellect and enslave the soul."

FRANCIS PLACE, 21, Brompton-square, Treasurer.

JAMES WATSON, 3, Queen's Head-passage, Paternoster-row, Sub-Treasurer.

RICHARD MOORE, 25, Hart-street, Bloomsbury-square, Chairman.

J. C. DOBSON COLLET, 15, Essex-street, Strand, Secretary.

To District Secretaries, Journalists, and others interested in the Success of the Newspaper Stamp Abolition Committee.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to forward a copy of our second Annual Report, reprinted from the *Leader* newspaper, which will from the beginning of the new year contain an article every week representing the views of the committee on the subject of the taxes on knowledge. In the same paper will be found all our future publications. Journalists writing articles on the free-knowledge question are requested to send copies to the office of the committee. Secretaries are requested to make use of the following form of petition, which should be presented as early as possible in the approaching session.

By order of the Committee,
J. C. D. COLLET, Secretary,
15, Essex-street, Strand.
Jan. 8, 1851.

FORM OF PETITION.

To the Honourable the House of Commons, the Petition of the Undersigned,
(Here insert their Description and Locality.)

SHOWNETH,
That all Taxes which impede the Diffusion of Knowledge are injurious to the best interests of the Public.

That the Tax upon Newspapers—called the Stamp; the Excise Duty upon Paper, and the Tax upon Advertisements are direct obstacles to the spread of all kinds of valuable information amongst the great body of the People.

Your petitioners therefore pray, that the Excise Tax upon Paper, the Tax upon Advertisements, and the Stamp Tax upon Newspapers, may be abolished, leaving the proper authorities to fix a small charge for the transmission of Newspapers by the Post.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

This Form of Petition must be copied in writing, as no printed petitions are received; every person signing it should state his or her name and address; the first sheet being signed by at least one person; it may then be directed, open at the sides, to any Liberal Member of the House of Commons, who will receive it post free.

REPEAL OF THE PAPER, STAMP, AND ADVERTISEMENT DUTIES.

At a meeting of the Birmingham town council held on Tuesday, Mr. Alderman Baldwin moved the adoption of a petition to Parliament for the repeal of the paper, advertisement, and stamp duties on newspapers. His remarks were chiefly devoted to pointing out the grievous pressure of the paper duty on merchants, manufacturers, and other tradesmen. As regards its effects in diminishing the demand for labour, he said:—

"If this duty were repealed, I am convinced that I could myself be the means of finding employment for at least 500 persons within twelve months after such repeal had taken place. Now, most of you are aware that the paper duty amounts to nearly £15 per ton, and by far the great bulk of the paper that is manufactured does not sell wholesale for more than £35 per ton; so that you will see the duty amounts to nearly one-half of the price paid for the article. And, as I am anxious to confine

myself to facts, I shall cite my own case. Last year I paid £9640 in the shape of duty, whilst the paper I manufactured did not sell for more than £24,000. And whilst I am pretty well convinced that I did not make above one-third of the paper that was consumed in Birmingham, I think that I manufactured in weight as much as was used in making, wrapping, and re-wrapping the goods that were exported from this town to our merchants, so that this would be equal to a tax of £10,000 per annum on the Birmingham merchants, besides that, when these goods arrive in America, there is a tariff to be encountered of about 30 per cent., which would raise the tax to something like £13,000 a year on the manufacturers and merchants of this town alone; but, going a step beyond this, and keeping in view my estimate, which I believe to be accurate, it will be seen that there is a gross tax on the people of Birmingham on all the paper consumed in it, amounting to something like £30,000 per annum; inasmuch as there is no town in the United Kingdom wherein, in proportion to its population, so large an amount of paper is consumed; for, according to our population, our fair share of the tax, with the rest of the country, would be, instead of £30,000, which we do pay, not more than seven or eight thousand. I know merchants myself who use twenty tons of paper annually in rewrapping their goods; and keeping in view that the duty is £15 per ton, the tax paid by each of them on the article of paper alone is £300 per year; and in putting this, I have not put an extreme case, because I know that there are men consuming a much larger quantity than that which I have named."

He concluded by moving the adoption of a petition to Parliament in favour of the abolition of the taxes on paper, newspaper stamps, and advertisements. Mr. Charles Sturge, in seconding the adoption of the petition, said he thought the penny stamp was more obnoxious than the paper duty. Mr. Alderman Martineau opposed the motion. A short discussion followed; the petition was ultimately carried almost unanimously—Alderman Martineau and Councillor Cox only holding up their hands against it.

A meeting of the paper-makers of Yorkshire was held at the White Horse Hotel, Leeds, on Tuesday, to consider the propriety of aiding the agitation for a repeal of the duty on paper. Resolutions were passed in favour of its abolition, and the sum of £65 was subscribed at the meeting in aid of the society formed in London for the abolition of the duty on paper.

NATIONAL CHARTER ASSOCIATION.

OFFICES, 14, SOUTHAMPTON-STREET, STRAND, LONDON.

The Executive Committee of this body held their usual weekly meeting, as above, on Wednesday evening last, Mr. James Grassby in the chair. The whole of the committee were present, except Mr. Reynolds, from whom a letter was read by the secretary, assigning indisposition as the cause of his absence.

Correspondence was received from Bermondsey, Blyth, Bradford, Greenwich, Huddersfield, and Leicester, also from Mr. J. Briggs, chairman of the "Universal Anti-Truck Society," Derby, and from Mr. D. Costello, secretary to the Provisional Committee of Directors formed in Dublin, for the purpose of establishing *The People*, democratic newspaper.

The resolutions adopted at the West Riding delegate meeting, held at Halifax, on Sunday last, having been read, the following resolution was moved by Mr. G. Julian Harney, seconded by Mr. John Milne, and carried with one dissentient:—

"That, highly approving of the resolutions unanimously adopted by the delegates representing the Chartists of the West Riding of Yorkshire at their meeting on Sunday, Jan. 5, it is hereby resolved that the aforesaid resolutions be entered upon the minute-book of the Executive Committee."

Mr. Jones then handed in a lengthy report, from which it appeared that a vote of confidence in the Executive was carried by the meeting, though disputed by the chairman. A declaration to this effect was signed by thirteen well-known names. There appears no doubt that the London Executive may count on the allegiance of the majority of the people in Manchester in communication with the Chartist body.

Mr. G. Julian Harney moved, and Mr. John Arnott seconded, the following resolution:—

"That the Executive express their full satisfaction at the report delivered by Mr. Ernest Jones, detailing the particulars of his attendance at the West Riding delegate meeting, and the meeting at Manchester, and express their thanks to Mr. Jones for his able and satisfactory discharge of the duties of the mission confided to him by the Executive."

Carried with one dissentient.

Messrs. Blake and Guest attended as a deputation from the Emmett Brigade to solicit the assistance of the committee in getting up a public meeting at the Literary Institution, Carlisle-street, Portman-market. The deputation also stated that a friend had kindly presented to them a prize shoe, to be exhibited for the benefit of the cause, that the said exhibition would take place at the Rock Tavern, Lisson-grove, on January 27 and 28, and, therefore, they were desirous that the public meeting should be held previous to that date. The secretary having been instructed to make the best possible arrangement with the Emmett Brigade for that purpose, the deputation withdrew.

Mr. O'Connor having stated that he had to lecture at the South London Hall, for the benefit of the Polish Refugees, was then about to retire, but Mr. Harney said that before Mr. O'Connor withdrew he was desirous of asking that gentleman a question. Would Mr. O'Connor be so kind as to state who were the professed leaders of the people to whom he referred in his letter in the *Star* of Saturday last, addressed to the "Slaves of England," who were actuated by "sordid motives," who "are struggling for popularity and gain," who "know nothing of your principles and care not a straw for you, but merely think of themselves," and "who create disunion for the mere purpose of elevating themselves, and living upon your disunion and credulity?"

Mr. O'Connor, in reply, said that he did not allude to any particular individual, and he could assure the Executive committee that he did not apply such remarks to any member of that body.

On the motion of Messrs. Milne and Holyoake, it agreed "that the report of Mr. Ernest Jones be printed with the minutes."

The list of places entitled to send delegates to the forthcoming conference was then taken into consideration, but as several inaccuracies appeared it was referred, for correction, to a sub-committee, consisting of Messrs. Arnott, Grassby, Harney, and Jones.

On the motion of Messrs. Arnott and Holyoake, it was agreed, "That a deputation of two be appointed from this Committee to attend the meetings of the Metropolitan District Council."

Messrs. Arnott and Milne were deputed for that purpose.

Mr. Le Blond being present, it was unanimously agreed, "That Mr. Robert Le Blond be requested to take his seat, *ex officio*, as the treasurer of the association."

The Secretary was instructed to state, in reply to several localities who had applied for the services of the two members of the Executive on the proposed tour, that arrangements will be forthwith made for such tour, provided the necessary funds are forwarded.

After the transaction of financial and other business the Committee adjourned to Wednesday evening, Jan. 15. Signed, on behalf of the Committee,

JOHN ARNOTT, Gen. Sec.

WEST-RIDING DELEGATE MEETING.

A West-Riding delegate meeting was held at Nicholl's Temperance Hotel, Broad-street, Halifax, on Sunday, the 5th instant. Delegates were present from the following places, namely—Halifax, Bradford, Huddersfield, Holmfirth, Todmorden, Bristol, Midgley, Wheatley. Mr. Horsfall in the chair.

Resolutions were carried unanimously to the following effect.—

"1. That we, the delegates assembled, consider that the Manchester Council acted contrary to the principles of Democracy in calling a conference without consulting the Executive, the only legitimate head of the Chartist body, and who alone have the right to call a conference. We do, therefore, recommend that no delegate be sent to the above conference from this riding.

"2. That, as Mr. O'Connor has stated his intention of deferring to the will of the majority, it is the opinion of this meeting that any further opposition to the now expressed will of the majority will lay that gentleman open to the charge of aiding an anti-Democratic faction.

"3. That it is the opinion of this meeting that the Executive have been elected by a fair and open vote; we, therefore, pledge ourselves to assist them in carrying out their views, and to tender them all the pecuniary aid in our power.

"4. That it is the opinion of this meeting that the letter of David Lawson, published in the *Star* of Nov. 16, is a tissue of gross and malicious falsehoods, and we hereby record our unmitigated abhorrence and indignation at such conduct.

"5. That we, the members of the West Riding Delegate meeting, having read the attack of the Manchester Council upon Mr. Jones and the men of Yorkshire, view it as unworthy of any body of men calling themselves Reformers.

A meeting of delegates of the Halifax district was held on Sunday, the 5th instant, at Lower Warley. The following places were represented:—Halifax, Midgley, Wheatley, Lower Warley, and Sowerby. The delegates pledge themselves to act under the direction of the Executive Committee, and endeavour at the same time to assist them as much as possible in a pecuniary point of view.

THE SHEFFIELD FREE PRESS.

We are glad to see that the Liberals of Sheffield have, *see more*, an organ which will faithfully represent their principles. Rather more than four years ago that town had three newspapers—the thriving *Whig Independent*, with a good circulation, and rather a large show of advertisements; the *Tory Mercury*, a paying concern, but not flourishing; and, last and lowest of all, the *Radical Iris*, founded by James Montgomery, about fifty years ago, and once a paper of note, but, at the time we speak of, on its last legs. To these three a fourth was added—the *Times*, which made its appearance in 1846 with great promises of Liberalism, and with no lack of money apparently, for, within two years, it had contrived to purchase the copyright of the *Tory Mercury*, and the *Radical Iris*.

By this bold movement the proprietors of the *Times* succeeded at once in making it a good advertising sheet, and they took great credit to themselves for having relieved the auctioneers and solicitors of that district from the necessity of advertising in so many newspapers as they had hitherto done. But they forgot that there is in every large town a numerous class which will insist upon having a downright earnest organ of its opinions, whatever the feeling of advertisers may be, and that when a newspaper throws politics overboard—as the *Sheffield paper* naturally did in order to please its Tory advertising friends—it must lay its account with losing a very large portion of its readers.

The *Sheffield Times* having given up its politics for advertisements, its place has been taken up by the *Sheffield Free Press*, the first number of which now lies before us. Judging from this specimen, and from what we know of the Liberals of Sheffield, we think it bids fair to become a prosperous and powerful organ. As regards its principles, the following passage from the prospectus will show that it has taken up strong ground, and is likely to prove a valuable auxiliary in promoting many important measures of reform:—

"In politics, the *Sheffield Free Press* will be found the uncompromising defender of every man's right to the privileges of citizenship. To attain the great principle of 'Manhood Suffrage,' with the safeguards for its free exercise,—to put an end to class distinctions, and make men practically brethren,—to free the arm of labour, by removing all imposts on the exchanges of industry,—to extend knowledge by opposing the odious taxes on paper and newspapers, and by enforcing the duty of the State to provide an efficient system of national education,—to hasten the advent of universal peace, by protesting against aggressive war,—to christianise our criminal code by advocating the abrogation of death punishments,—to enforce economy, by calling attention to the abuses of the civil list, the corrupt pension list, and to our needlessly great military and naval power,—and to advocate a simple, inexpensive, and just mode of obtaining the revenue of the country. These will be the principles and objects of the *Sheffield Free Press*.

"The great social problems which are commanding the attention and dividing the opinion of the world, will be fully and impartially canvassed. Theories which promise to redeem society from the tyranny of class, and to elevate the depressed, without committing injustice to any, shall have the warmest support. For the present mode of the distribution of wealth, which exhibits anomalies threatening the dissolution of society, a remedy will be anxiously sought, and, if found, earnestly impressed on the popular mind."

ANOTHER DARING BURGLARY.

A most daring and successful burglary was committed early on Thursday morning week at Downland House, Uckfield, the residence of the Misses Farncombe, four maiden ladies, who have resided there for many years. Downland House is situated about a quarter of a mile from the main street of Uckfield, and stands back a short distance from the road in a small lawn. In front, on the opposite side of the road, scarcely a hundred yards off, is the house of the Reverend Mr. Streetfield. On one side is a plantation, and immediately at the back, within forty yards, is a small farmhouse, occupied by a Mr. Merchant, his family and servants, and a man employed on the farm. At a short distance are also one or two cottages. A residence so situated would, under ordinary circumstances, hardly have been selected as the scene of a burglary, and this strengthens the suspicion that the robbers were well acquainted with the premises. The inmates of Downland House consist of the four Misses Farncombe, two female servants and a butler, Thomas Wood; there is also a gardener, but he does not sleep on the premises.

The burglars entered by a small gate on the lawn, and having cut a bludgeon from the branch of a tree overhanging the path, proceeded straight across the lawn to the front of the house, where they attempted in vain to force open the window of the breakfast parlour. They then went to a small window in the dairy, protected only by a perforated zinc or wire blind. Having wrenched off the wire covering, entrance was gained to the dairy, and by a similar process the cellar adjoining it was entered. At the end of the cellar is a passage communicating with the kitchen, the door to which was only fastened by one of the two bolts upon it. This was easily forced, and it is presumed that one of the robbers (who was very small) was put through the dairy window and left to make his way into the kitchen, having gained which he opened the back door and let in the rest of his companions. Having reached the kitchen, the band proceeded up the back staircase leading to the manservant's room.

Thomas Wood, the butler, had retired to rest at his usual hour on the previous night. The night was very dark, and there was a great deal of wind. He was first awake about three o'clock by a noise, as if from some one trying the handle of his door, which was locked. He called out, "Who's there?" twice; at first supposing that it was one of the servants. Receiving no reply, it at once flashed across his mind that there were thieves in the house, and he sprang out of bed in order to seize a loaded gun which lay near him. At that moment the door was burst open with a violent crash, in rushed five men, and before he could level the gun he received a violent blow on the shoulder (aimed at his head) from the butt-end of a horse pistol, which knocked him down. The gun was wrenched from his grasp, and he was at once overpowered, and threatened with

instant death if he moved hand or foot. The robbers all wore masks; were each armed, and had each a lighted candle. Three of them wore masks of what appeared to be white calico; one of black crape, the disguise of the fifth being made out of a red pocket handkerchief. They wore no shoes or hats, but two of them had each put on a straw bonnet belonging to the servants. Having ordered Wood to get into bed, the robbers retired outside his door, where they held a consultation as to whether he should be despatched or not. He lay quiet, and in a few minutes the robbers reentered his room, and one with a violent oath levelled a large horse pistol at him. At this moment another, who appeared to be the leader, interfered, and struck back the pistol; this caused a sort of quarrel amongst them, the first man still seeming disposed to murder Wood, and asking his comrades if they did not see that he had tried to use his gun. At one moment he had the muzzles of five pistols levelled at him, but eventually they ceased to threaten his life, except he attempted to move. This settled, they set to work to ransack his drawers. They asked for his keys, and on his telling them where they were, one of the party threw his trousers at his head, and told him to give them the keys. Without waiting for them, however, they forced open the desk and took out nearly £20 in money, a gold ring and key, a silver watch, and several other things. Having satisfied themselves that no more was to be had here, they went out of the room, leaving one man, armed, to keep guard over Wood. In a few minutes one of the burglars came back, and, grasping him tightly by his shirt collar, dragged him from his bed, and, without allowing him to put on shoes or trousers, forced him to go down stairs to show them where the plate was lodged. Before, however, he had got down stairs a crash was heard, followed by a jingling of plate, which at once showed there was no need of his assistance, and that the plate cupboard had been broken. Indeed, as one of the ruffians observed, while having the keys in his hand, "They didn't come there to open locks." Wood, after this, was taken back to his room and again delivered to the custody of the former guard. While under his charge Wood entered into conversation with this man, who did not scruple to answer him. Upon Wood's observing that, "If they hadn't come so strong, or had given him half a minute more time, they would have had the contents of the gun among them," the robber replied, "Oh, yes, I dare say you would; I have known you, Tom, from your infancy." In fact, from several circumstances that have transpired, there seems to be little doubt that some one, at least, of the robbers must have been well acquainted with the habits of the family and the situation of the different rooms. Wood next heard the panels of the door leading to the room occupied by his mistresses burst in, and soon afterwards a loud scream from one of the ladies reached his ears. He implored the man to go and persuade his comrades not to maltreat the ladies, and, on his consenting not to move, the man went away for that purpose, and soon returned, apparently having fulfilled his errand, as the ladies were subjected to no personal violence. The thieves, however, ransacked every drawer, taking money, watches, jewels, and, in fact, everything they could lay their hands upon. Fortunately, one of the ladies rose on becoming acquainted with the fact that the house was in possession of the burglars, and, possessing herself of a valuable box of jewels, secreted it in the bed. When the ruffians entered her room her collected manner afforded them no suspicion, and the jewels were saved. Another of the ladies, on finding thieves in the house, was making her way into the room of one of her sisters, when she met three men in the passage; she insisted on passing, which they allowed, but they forced her to get into bed with her sister. The burglars next proceeded to the maidservants' room, and there took a watch and what money they could find. The cook, however, had the precaution to conceal a watch under the mattress, and it thus escaped the eyes of the robbers. One of the servants having been alarmed by the breaking in of Wood's door, began to ring a handbell out of a bedroom window; this being heard by the burglars, one of them immediately rushed up stairs, and threatened to shoot the girl unless she returned quietly to bed.

The work of plunder completed, the men returned to Wood's room, where they left him, after uttering the most fearful threats against him if he dared to follow them down stairs, or to leave the house for an hour and a half after them, during which time they pretended to depute one of their body to keep watch outside the house. They then descended, and he heard them packing up their booty, about the distribution of which, however, they began to quarrel. As they left the house the clock struck five, the work of plunder having occupied full two hours. On their departure it was found that they had not confined their depredations to mere valuables. They broke open a closet from which they took out several bottles of wine; the necks of these they knocked out and drank the contents. They also helped themselves to the contents of the larder, taking away with them two hams, several loaves of bread, cheeses, &c.

Six of the gang, all of whom are suspected of having been concerned in the burglary, were apprehended

last week. Their names are Morgan, Hillyer, Carter, Hamilton, and John and James Smith. The prisoners, who are described as mostly of ferocious and repulsive aspect, were brought up for examination at Tunbridge-Weils, on Monday, but were remanded till Saturday (this day). The butler immediately recognized Morgan as the man who knocked him down with the butt-end of the horse pistol, and Carter as the one who kept guard over him while the other burglars ransacked the house. The latter was also recognized as having worked at Uckfield some time since in the employment of a tradesman.

Much alarm and excitement has been created among the nobility and gentry resident in the vicinity of Kensington from the numerous and extensive robberies committed there of late. The premises, 28, Lower Phillimore-place, Kensington, have been entered, and silver plate, value £100, a large quantity of jewellery of the most costly description, gold watches, and about £17 in money carried off. The house No. 1, Scarsdale-place, was also entered, and a large quantity of valuable jewellery abstracted; and, notwithstanding the exertions of the police, no clue has been obtained as to the perpetrators.

A man named Henry Harwood was caught in the house of a lady named Charratt, residing at No. 24, Soho-square, on Saturday morning, about two o'clock. The lady, who was an invalid and very timid, had requested the coachman to sleep in the middle drawing-room, where a considerable quantity of plate was usually kept. About two o'clock that morning he was awakened by a noise, and on looking out he saw the front drawing-room door, which usually stood open, pulled to. Being surprised at this he sat up in bed, and in a minute or two afterwards he saw the door leading to the landing opened by a strange man. He got out of bed and seized the intruder. A struggle ensued, and the man made his way to the window in the front drawing-room and jumped out on the portico. The coachman followed and seized the man again, calling loudly for the police. The man got from his grasp and tumbled off the portico head foremost on the pavement. The police constable, who had been attracted by the noise, then came up just in time to secure the burglar. The coachman had his shirt torn to pieces in the struggle. Harwood was brought before the magistrate, at Marlborough-street Police-office, on Saturday, and fully committed for trial.

Two men, armed with pistols and crowbars, broke into the house of Mr. Thos. Sheldon, at Wycliffe, Derby, on Sunday night. They were resisted, and used their firearms at the inmates, whom they treated with much violence. They shot a pointer dog and stole £3 10s. and a silver watch. The same men, it is supposed, went to Mr. William Dakins, at Shirley, whose house they also burglariously entered, discharging their pistols off repeatedly to the great terror of the family, who took refuge in one of the upper apartments. The fellows remained some time on the premises, consuming cake and wine. They were, however, disappointed in their search for money, only succeeding in getting hold of about 30s. After leaving the house they broke into the stable, and took a valuable horse, which the fellows, who are described as of gentlemanly appearance, mounted and rode off.

During the night of Wednesday week, the mansion-house of the Honourable Robert Curzon, at Hagley, near Rugby, was entered by burglars, and a quantity of plate stolen.

The shop of Messrs. Clark and Morris, silversmiths, Church-street, Liverpool, was broken into between Saturday night and Monday morning. The burglars broke their way into the premises through the wall of an adjoining cellar. It is estimated that gold watches and chains to the value of £600 were stolen, and diamond brooches valued at £300. Besides these, a variety of studs, bracelets, brooches, and other articles were carried off. Altogether, the loss is estimated by the firm at £1800. The thieves appear to have been disturbed, for they left behind a case of valuable diamond rings, and several other articles, small in bulk, which were conspicuously placed. Their object appears to have been to take only those things which were portable, and might be readily concealed about the person.

A DEN OF THIEVES.

Some time since a lad was apprehended on suspicion of stealing some bread, and when he returned home to his parents, from interrogations put to him by his mother, it turned out that he had become connected with a gang, numbering about twenty or twenty-two, known to each other as "The Twenty Thieves," who obtained a living by prowling about the New-cut, Waterloo-road, and the terminus of the railway, and stealing whatever they could lay their hands upon. On one occasion they had cooked a leg of mutton in their cave, which was under one of the arches of the railway, and so difficult to get to that they were forced to crawl through a small hole in the brickwork. When once there, they were perfectly free from observation; and, from the precautions his companions had taken, it was impossible that their hiding-place could ever be found out. Indeed, he could not find it himself unless he were taken to it by some of the others. The mother, on finding the sort of company her child had fallen into, immediately repaired to the Tower-street police-station, and informed the inspector of what her son had related to her. That officer immediately gave orders for a search to be made, with a view of ascertaining whether there was any truth in the lad's statement, and, if there was, to adopt measures to apprehend as many of the gang as might be found.

Accordingly, about two o'clock on Sunday morning, two police officers set out on their voyage of discovery. They examined all the arches in Granby-street, but without finding any trace of either the thieves or their cave. About half-past three o'clock, however, whilst examining the arches nearest the vacant piece of ground in

the York-road, they perceived the marks of footsteps, which appeared to lead to a small hole, more like what would be occasioned by the water draining than the entrance to any sort of habitation. On looking through this aperture they discovered five ragged boys, some of whom had pipes in their mouths smoking, while others were talking and laughing, and all seemed as if they were perfectly secure from discovery in their hiding-place. The moment one of the officers threw the light of his bull's-eye upon the group they all started upon their feet, but the arch being enclosed on all sides they had no opportunity of escape, and were secured without difficulty, and removed to the police-station. The cave, which had a portable fire-place in it, was most ingeniously fitted up, having a cooking apparatus and nearly everything necessary for domestic use. A place to keep the victuals in was sunk in the ground and secured from dirt by a lid similar to the iron grating over the area coal vaults usual in public streets. By fastening boards and canvass up to the cave they succeeded in keeping out the weather, whilst a quantity of straw served the gang for a bed. How it was possible for any one to live in the place seems incredible, for neither of the officers were able to stand upright in the cave, and to enter it they were obliged to force their way backwards, the opening being too small to admit of their going in the regular way. The ages of the parties did not exceed fifteen or sixteen years. They were all brought up for examination at Southwark Police-office, on Monday, when it appeared that they were well known to the police. Bent, the detective officer of the South-Western Railway, said that a number of their companions were convicted some time ago for a similar offence, and that it cost the company £75 to repair the arch which they damaged by taking up their quarters in it. They were all committed to prison, one of them for six weeks, another for four weeks, and the other three for three weeks.

MAKING TROUSERS AT THREEPENCE A PAIR.

Two poor needlewomen applied to Mr. Yardley, at the Thames-street Police-office, on Monday, under the following circumstances:—One of them named Williams stated that on Monday week she took home some trousers which she had made up for an out-fitter in the Commercial-road. The shopman complained of the manner in which they were done, and said she must take them back. Shortly afterwards he however said they would do, and asked her if she could make unbound trousers at 3s. a pair, to which she replied, "Oh, no, that would be starvation," on which he again said the trousers she had brought would not do. She asked him to pay her the 1s. 4d., and offered to alter them. He then, after conversing with another young man in the shop, gave her a ticket, which she thought was for the money, and she accordingly handed it to the pay clerk, who said, "Why, your money is stopped for not doing your work properly." She called again on Tuesday and asked for the money for making the trousers, but the man told her she must stand back. When the other people left she again civilly asked for her money, when she was told to wait, which she did until two o'clock, and was then informed that it was too late, and she must come again on Thursday, as her work had been given out to alter. She said that she could not waste her time by calling on Thursday, and not having received her money, she wished to know from the magistrate what course she should pursue. Mr. Yardley observed that there were more than sufficient complaints made respecting that firm, and directed M'Cready, a summoning officer, to look to the matter. The next case was that of a woman, who stated that on Saturday week she received four coats to make up, which were to be returned to the same outfitters on the ensuing Tuesday. When returned it was found that one of them was of a different pattern to the others, whereupon the out-fitter told her that she must take it to pieces. She replied, that if taken to pieces it would be quite unsaleable; but, if permitted, she would work the price out, and allow it to be stopped weekly, and in the interim endeavour to sell it herself. He told her that if she came next day he would see what was to be done. She did so, when he put a ticket on the coat, and on her asking for more work that she might pay for it, he refused to comply unless she brought him 7s. 6d. Mr. Yardley directed M'Cready to enquire into this case also. On Tuesday M'Cready reported that the firm would neither give him the articles nor pay the money, alleging that the work was not properly executed. Mr. Yardley regretted that he could not render the poor applicants any further assistance than ordering them 5s. each to prosecute their claims at the County Court.

A GANG OF COINERS.

The shopkeepers of Glasgow have lately been much annoyed by the immense number of base penny-pieces that have got into circulation. The spurious coins, which are formed of a composition of brass, lead, and a small portion of copper, are so well executed that, but for the weight, and a slight tinge of brassiness about them, they are exceedingly difficult to detect. It was strongly suspected that an extensive manufacture of them was carried on somewhere about Glasgow, but, up till last Saturday, the police were foiled in all their attempts to discover the locality. On Saturday afternoon a policeman observed two boys in King-street, Calton, who seemed very anxious to shun observation. He remarked also that one of them carried something in a handkerchief, which he endeavoured to conceal. When they saw that he was following them they ran off, flinging down the handkerchief, which was found to contain a quantity of spurious coin. One of the boys was apprehended, and the other was traced to the very house where the coiners were at work. On the police demanding admittance, the parties inside said they would be the death of any one who would dare to enter. After trying

in vain to persuade them to open the door, the police broke it open, but found the inmates fully prepared for them, one with an axe, another with a heavy hammer, and a third with a poker; and the females of the party, of whom there were two, also wielding deadly weapons. No sooner had one of the constables entered the apartment than a stroke was aimed at him with the axe, which took partial effect on his forehead, and might have inflicted mortal injury, but that the descending blow was to some extent intercepted by a second officer, who observed the danger in time. Another of the police was also struck with the hammer; and the resistance might have been effectual, had not the constables, drawing their heavy batons, used them with such vigour that the coiners were soon overpowered, though not before several of them had been severely punished. On the house being searched, there was found a considerable number of spurious penny-pieces, apparently fresh out of the mould; but the gang had improved the brief interval during which the police were kept outside, by destroying, as well as they could, the mould, files, and metal employed in the nefarious process. Enough, however, remains, irrespective of the coins themselves, to prove clearly the nature of the operation in which the inmates had been engaged when discovered. The whole of the prisoners implicated belong to Belfast, from which, not many weeks since, one of the females arrived.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Queen and Prince Albert have taken their customary early morning walks this week, and the Royal children have taken walking and pony exercise in the slopes and Windsor-park, but no event of extraordinary importance has been chronicled by the *Court Circular*. The royal dinner party at the Castle on Tuesday evening included the Duchess of Kent, the Duke of Cambridge, the Duchess of Sutherland, and Lady C. Leveson Gower, Lord and Lady John Russell, Lady Fanny Howard, Baroness de Speth, the Right Honourable the Speaker and Mrs. Shaw Lefevre, and Colonel the Honourable Charles Grey.

The *Waterford Mail* says it is informed that her Majesty will visit the Lakes of Killarney about the month of June next. We suspect this to be a mere pleasing suggestion of a possibility, rather than a report founded on fact.

On Wednesday next Lord John Russell gives the first Cabinet dinner this season at his residence in Chesham-place.

Although upwards of three weeks has to elapse before the assembling of Parliament, the Ministerial leader in the House of Lords has, thus early, forwarded his circular, earnestly requesting the attendance, at the opening of the session, of the Irish Peers who support the policy of the present Government.

The hopes recently entertained of the Duke of Newcastle's recovery have been suddenly changed into the most serious apprehensions for his safety. The latest account represents him in the most precarious state, and, in all human probability, incapable of surviving many days. The family surgeon gives no hopes whatever of the noble duke's recovery.

Lord Dunraven, who has represented the county of Glamorgan in Parliament for the last thirteen years, has addressed the electors, announcing that he has accepted the Chiltern Hundreds. He had made up his mind to retire some time ago, but deferred making his intention public, "in order to spare all parties the annoyance of a long-protracted canvass."

The Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress have taken up their residence at the Mansion-house. His lordship commenced the new year by receiving a family party at dinner on New Year's Day, and has issued cards of invitation for a dinner to be given to the aldermen and their ladies on the 31st of January, and for an evening party on the same day. The usual household dinner will be held, according to ancient custom, on Plough Monday, and his lordship will entertain the directors of the Monarch Assurance Office, of which his lordship is chairman, on Tuesday, the 21st instant.

Intelligence was received at Birmingham, on Thursday afternoon, that an accident of a very alarming character had occurred to Sir Robert Peel. It seems that the honourable baronet was out hunting on Wednesday in the neighbourhood of Fazeley; the horse stumbled, threw his rider, and fell on him in such a way as to seriously injure Sir Robert's head. He was taken up senseless, and on Thursday morning was in a very precarious state.

Mr. George Drummond, the banker, of Charing-cross, attended divine service on Sunday at Belgrave Chapel, and received the sacrament, apparently in good health. Immediately on his return home, he was seized with sudden illness, and died before medical attendance could be procured. From a *post-mortem* examination of the body it appears that he died of disease of the heart.

The Queen has granted pensions on the Civil List of £100 a-year to Mrs. Belzoni, the aged widow of the celebrated traveller, and to Mr. Poole, the author of *Paul Pry*, and of several contributions to periodical literature. The latter is, we regret to hear, a great sufferer from bodily infirmities.

M. Soyer denies that he has taken Gore-house (the residence of the late Lady Blessington) "in anticipation of making an hotel of the house, and opening the grounds in the style of Cremorne." It is true, nevertheless, that he has taken the premises, for he dates his letter from "Gore House," and says it will be his duty to devote this establishment entirely for the display of the gastronomic art, where I am now making preparations to accommodate thousands of persons daily at my "Symposium of all Nations."

Accounts from Madrid of the 3rd instant state that the Duke of Valencia, accompanied by all his colleagues,

waited the night before on the Queen, and tendered her Majesty the collective resignation of the members of the Cabinet. The Queen refused to accept the resignation of her Ministers, who consequently retained their portfolios by virtue of a royal order. It appears that the Duke took offence at a cold reception he had experienced from Queen Maria Christina, and prevailed on his colleagues to adopt that resolution.

The Berlin papers mention that Prince Schwarzenberg, who is unmarried and without property, is a son of the Princess who perished in the dreadful conflagration of the saloons during the celebration of Napoleon's nuptials at Paris. They might add that he is the same Prince who figured as a defendant in a very scandalous trial which took place in this country some twenty years ago, or more.

Some days before her death, which took place lately in Paris, Mlle. Elisa Forgeot, ex-directress of the Théâtre Français at London, was conversing with some friends, when some one knocked at her door, upon which her femme de chambre whispered some words in her ear. "It is my marchande de modes come to try me on a new dress," said the actress, "will you come to see it?" She then led the way to her dressing-room, and her friends who followed her were surprised and pained to see that the new gown was a coffin. The coffin was in rosewood, lined with white satin, and was placed against the wall. She entered it to try it. "Yes," she said, smiling, "it fits well, and I am pleased with it."

Several well-known men of letters were tried before the Paris Tribunal of Correctional Police, on Saturday, for having been concerned in a duel, which happened thus:—On the 30th of October last, an article signed by M. Viennet, reflecting on M. C. Hugo, one of the editors of the *Evenement*, appeared in the *Corsaire*, of which M. Viennet is an editor. M. Hugo took offence at this, and sent M. Méry and M. Dumas, the eminent authors, to demand reparation. An explanation was given, but some misunderstanding subsequently arose, and a duel was resolved on. As, however, M. Hugo is a very young man, and M. Viennet a very old one, it was settled that M. Viennet's son should fight in his place. The meeting took place with swords in the wood of Meudon, and M. Hugo was slightly wounded. M. Viennet, jun., and his seconds, M. de la Pierre and M. de Grimaldi, and the two seconds of M. Hugo, M. A. Dumas and M. Méry, were tried for this offence. Each of the accused gave explanations, and, in the course of his, M. A. Dumas said that he only consented to act as second to M. Hugo on the express wish of his father, M. Victor Hugo, that he should fight. The tribunal condemned M. Viennet, M. de la Pierre, and M. de Grimaldi to 100fr. fine each, M. Méry and M. Dumas to 200fr. each.

A letter from Rome, of the 26th ultimo, states that the funeral of M. Frederic Bastiat, the distinguished French political economist, took place in that city on that morning in the church of St. Louis.

At an annual festival of the "New England Society," held in New York on the 22nd of December (anniversary of the landing of the "Pilgrims" on Plymouth-rock), Sir Henry Bulwer and Daniel Webster were among the guests; and, in reply to a speech from Mr. Webster complimentary to England and its Minister, Sir Henry made a very eloquent speech, which was most warmly received and applauded.

The report of the committee on the proposition of M. B. Raspail, for authorizing legislatively the marriage of priests and persons in holy orders, has been presented to the French Assembly. The committee expresses its opinion that the Assembly cannot seriously enter on the question, that the proposition is full of dangers and inconveniences, and that only priests who have renounced their allegiance to the Church could avail themselves of it. The report therefore recommends its not being taken into consideration.

A letter from Florence of the 30th ultimo states that the delegates of that city had communicated to the book-sellers a long list of works which the government had thought proper to prohibit. Those books are divided into two categories—one, of which the introduction is prohibited, the other of which the sale is forbidden.

The German papers state from Dresden that an opinion prevails among the Austrian agents at the Congress that the executive against Holstein will have effected its purpose by the 15th instant. Hitherto the committee only of the Congress have been sitting, and a general assembly, or "Plenum" of all the agents is not likely to take place before the middle of next week.

The Austrian corps marching towards Holstein contains a Hungarian regiment which served in the insurrection. There are also a number of Hungarian officers of rank condemned to serve as privates in all the Austrian regiments; Count Sandor is doing duty as a common artilleryman.

The reduction of the Prussian army is at length being proceeded with in earnest. The Minister of War has ordered the first class of the militia, or landwehr, to be reduced to 600 men per battalion, and the militia cavalry to 500 men per regiment.

The electric telegraphs managed by the Prussian Government do not pay their expenses, and a grant of £15,000 will be demanded of the Chambers for this branch of service in the coming year. The Chambers ought to recommend an increase of apparatus and a great reduction of charges; the increase of public telegraphic communication would then speedily raise the income above the costs.

A great opposition to the monopoly of tobacco and cigars has been got up in Hungary, where the eternally smoking population suffer severely from the restriction laid upon their favourite pastime. It is, however, a fruitful subject of discontent everywhere, and it is not surprising that the discontented party in Hungary should lay hold of it.

Letters from Genoa state that a riot took place there on the 3rd instant. Several persons were wounded. In

order to ensure the tranquillity of Italy the French Government proposes to station sundry steamers along the coast.

The *Milan Gazette*, of the 30th ultimo, announces officially, that all the foreign consulates at Milan would cease to exist from the 1st of January, 1851. They are to be transferred to Venice.

The *Concordia* of Turin makes some severe remarks upon the Sardinian Envoy at Rome, for his having appeared at the official reception of the Vatican with an azure cockade, instead of the tricoloured one, which has been adopted by Sardinia since 1848.

The *Heraldo* publishes a letter from Cadix, stating that the influx of travellers who had repaired thither to embark in the Caledonia steamer for Cuba was so considerable that a great number could not find room on board.

The *Courier d'Athènes* states that bands of robbers continue to infest the country. A party of brigands lately pillaged the principal houses of the village of Melissima in open day. A few days after this exploit the robbers had a skirmish with a party of soldiers, of whom one was killed and another wounded. Scenes of a similar description have occurred in Euboea, Livadia, Boeotia, and Attica. At Gortyna a party of ninety travellers were attacked and robbed on their way to Tripolizza. A numerous band attacked the village of Machala, in Acarnania, pillaged several houses, and put some of the inhabitants to the torture. On the 17th ultimo, a band of twenty robbers, under the orders of Contomilli, attacked the Turkish village Zantati, and had a skirmish with an Ottoman detachment, which lost two men.

Letters from Jamaica to the 15th of December bring frightful accounts of the ravages from cholera, which had almost disappeared in Kingston, but still prevailed in the inland and country districts. In some parts there was scarcely a house in which there was not either a dead or dying person, and in several instances whole families were swept off in the course of a few hours.

Another portion of the rock at Niagara fell down with an awful crash about the middle of last month. The *Niagara Falls Iris*, of December 14, says:—"On Tuesday evening last our citizens were startled on hearing a loud and terrific noise, resembling, as near as we can describe it, the heavy booming of artillery in quick succession, which shook the earth around us very sensibly. Part of the Horse-shoe Fall on the Canada side had fallen, carrying away about ten rods of the rock in length, by four in width. The canal boat, which had been lodged for the last few months on the brink of the rock which has fallen, and which has excited the admiration of all who beheld it, was also carried over with the rock. It is now in the whirlpool, two miles down the river, dancing attendance on the freaks of that great maelstrom. The crash occurred about seven o'clock in the evening, and it is indeed providential that it fell at such an hour and at this season of the year. Had it been in the summer, when so many thousands of strangers are here, there undoubtedly would have been persons crushed to death; for it is precisely the spot whence so many contemplate the grandeur of nature and behold the waters of the mighty cataract above them rushing terrifically over their heads that is now filled with huge masses of rock which have fallen from above."

John W. Stump, of Bell Air, Maryland, was lately tried for the murder of Henry Hammond, by shooting him while in his garden. Hammond was accused of seducing Mary Stump, sister of the prisoner, while she was on a visit to his family, and Stump was charged with shooting him for the act. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty, and the announcement was loudly cheered by the people.

It is said that Government intend to bring in a bill for the purpose of protecting from piracy inventions, &c., not already protected by the Designs Act of last year.

The Postmaster-General has given orders that all the town receiving houses in the kingdom shall resume receiving registered letters, a practice which had for some time ceased.

The British Museum was reopened to the public on Wednesday, at ten o'clock, and will now be open on every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, between the hours of ten and four o'clock, from January till May and from September till January, and during the summer months between the hours of ten and seven.

The *Morning Post* informs us that "amongst the novelties which the 'Crystal Palace' will contain at the Great Exhibition of 1851 will be some plans and models on the most extensive scale ever known in this country, intended with a view for the better protection of the coast in the event of any attempt at foreign invasion. Its adoption would entirely abolish the present facilities afforded for smuggling, and thereby to render the Coast Guard unnecessary; or, rather, it would have the effect of transferring their services to another branch of duty."

The repairs and restorations which have been in progress for some time past, in the interior of St. Stephen, Walbrook, having been completed, it was reopened for the celebration of divine service on Sunday. At morning service, which was celebrated by the Reverend Dr. Croly, the rector of the parish, the church was very much crowded in every part. The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs, accompanied by several members of the corporation of the City of London, were present, and occupied pews which, during the late repairs, were fitted up for their use. The Bishop of London read the Communion service and preached.

During the last few days from twenty to thirty men have been busily employed in sawing timber and preparing piles to sink in the river, preparatory to beginning operations for the erection of the proposed and long-talked of suspension bridge between Chelsea and Battersea. The bridge, which is to be constructed for carriage as well as passenger traffic, is to be commenced on the north side of the river, about three hundred yards

below the gardens in front of Chelsea Hospital, and is to cross the river in a direct line in front of the old Battersea Red-house, so long known to and frequented by Cockney sportsmen. The Red-house is to be pulled down entirely, and an elegant approach is to be made on the site of it and the gardens attached, to the southern end of the bridge. On the north the bridge is to be approached by a road to be constructed running in a direct line from the now notorious chapel of St. Barnabas.

A public meeting was held at the Denmark school-rooms, Islington, on Tuesday evening, to concert measures for obtaining the immediate, total, and unconditional repeal of the Window-tax. It appears that much dissatisfaction exists in the parish in consequence of the authorities having neglected the invitation of St. Mary-lebone to appoint delegates in common with other parishes, to wait upon Lord John Russell, to urge the immediate repeal of the aforesaid tax; and, consequently, the Parochial Reform Association had taken upon themselves the office of calling a public meeting on the subject, at which they requested the presence of several Members of Parliament, and of the delegates who had been appointed by some of the principal metropolitan parishes upon the subject of the window-tax. Deputations and delegates attended from various metropolitan parishes, among which were St. James's, Westminster; St. George's, Southwark; Clerkenwell, Greenwich, Paddington, and Hackney. Mr. Wyld, M.P., and Mr. Wakley, M.P., among many other gentlemen, addressed the meeting. Mr. Wakley renewed his pledge of resignation, if ill health continued to prevent his attendance in the House: and votes of satisfaction with him, and of censure on the parish authorities, were carried unanimously.

A meeting was held at the Assembly Rooms, Theobald's-road, on Thursday evening, consisting of the inhabitants of the parishes of St. Andrew's, Holborn, and of St. George the Martyr, for the purpose of taking into consideration the urgent necessity of appointing a public prosecutor. After some discussion it was argued that a petition to that effect should be presented to the House of Commons, and that the two members for Finsbury should be requested to take charge of it.

The first anniversary of the Printers' Dramatic Society New Year's soiree was held at Anderton's Hotel, on Saturday evening. Mr. W. H. Wills, who filled the chair, in the absence of Mr. C. Dickens, explained the purport of the society. It took its rise from the circumstance of so many of the operative printers having fallen victims to the vicissitudes of cholera, which occurred a year or two ago, leaving their widows and families in a state of comparative destitution. To commemorate the success of the society, a pleasant evening was arranged at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, for the members and their wives and families. A very agreeable party was thus assembled, who were entertained throughout the evening by the vocal and dramatic efforts of a number of amateurs, male and female, which in many instances would have done no discredit to regular professionals.

A public meeting was held at Manchester, on Thursday, to consider, or rather to adopt, a scheme devised by Mr. John Potter, Mayor of that town, for establishing a Public Free Library and Museum for the working and other inhabitants of the borough. Among the gentlemen present were:—The Mayor of Manchester, the Lord Bishop of Manchester, the Very Reverend the Dean of Manchester, the Mayor of Salford, Mr. Jos. Brotherton, M.P., Messrs. J. A. Turner, Thomas Bazley, W. R. Callender, Richard Birley, Charles Hickson, J. Fereday Smith, and a considerable number of clergymen, ministers, and other leading inhabitants. The Mayor stated that he was indebted for the suggestion to Dr. Watts, who, about a year ago, had proposed to him that the Hall of Science might be purchased cheap, and made available for the purposes of a Public Library and Museum. The Mayor accordingly took up the matter and worked so assiduously that he procured subscriptions to the amount of £4319, to which the overseers of the poor have added £2000, entrusted to their care for public purposes, making altogether £6319. In addition to a reading-room and library for reference, it is proposed to have a free lending library. A large committee was appointed to authorize the necessary alterations in the Hall of Science, which has already been bought for £2147, including the ground rent,—to prepare rules, appoint a librarian, and promote the speedy establishment of a Free Library and Museum.

The Rattler, from Genoa, arrived at Liverpool a few days since, having amongst other cargo, a complete suit of sacerdotal habits for his Eminence Cardinal Wiseman. The case containing these novel imports is at present lying in the transit shed at the Nelson dock until his Eminence shall have certified that the vestments are required solely for the purposes of the celebration of divine worship; otherwise, a duty will have to be paid on the material of the habiliments, being foreign manufactured silk. Besides the pallium, the red stockings, and various richly embroidered vestments, the case contains a mitre, and a hat of more than quaker dimensions of brim. There are also several suits of liveries for his Eminence's official attendants.

The Jersey papers contain a copy of the mandate of justice in the case of Miss Julia Rush against Cardinal Wiseman. The proceeding was instituted for the purpose of recovering a sum of £492 advanced by Miss Rush to build a convent in Jersey, and as the price of the purchase of the site on which it has been erected. For some reasons that do not appear in the report, Dr. Wiseman withdrew his consent to have the convent established as originally agreed upon, though taking the conveyance of the premises to himself and other trustees. On the motion of his proctor the case was allowed to stand over until the first day of next term, when Cardinal Wiseman and his co-trustees will have to pay the amount claimed, unless satisfactory cause to the contrary be shown.

A shocking accident occurred at the building for the Exhibition in Hyde-park, on Monday morning, to two of the glaziers. The men were engaged at work on the machine or swinging stage, when they were pitched out and fell with the scaffolding to the ground. The unfortunate men were immediately picked up and conveyed to St. George's Hospital, when it was ascertained that they had received most extensive injuries, having struck and bounded from girder to girder in the fall. They now lie in a very dangerous state.

A lamentable accident took place at the present temporary terminus of the Great Northern Railway on Saturday afternoon, by which one unfortunate man has lost his life, and three other persons have been seriously injured. It appears that a number of the workmen were employed in raising an iron girder to one of the upper floors, by means of what is termed on board of ship and dockyards, "sheers" or "sheer legs." This girder, it is stated, is in weight from five to six tons, and the men had raised it to the fourth story, when suddenly one of the "sheer legs" broke, and the ponderous mass fell with a frightful crash, crushing everything in its progress downwards. Some idea may be formed of the immense weight which fell, when it is stated that two large logs of timber, placed across the creek, were completely snapped asunder. Two of the men, named Green and Rolfe, were so seriously injured that immediate removal to University College Hospital was found necessary. A third was conveyed to his own residence. The foreman of the works having called a muster of the men, a young man named James Kendal, a carpenter, was found to be missing. Drags were procured, and after dragging for about an hour his body was found embedded in the mud. He had a frightful lacerated wound over the left eye and temple. It is believed he must either have been standing on some of the planks which the girder struck at the time it fell, or that the girder itself must have struck him in its descent.

A collision, by which several first-class and other passengers sustained considerable injury, took place on Saturday on the London and North-Western Railway, at Boxmoor. A goods train had been detained there, shortly after three o'clock, till certain repairs were effected, of which due warning was given. But the Liverpool express train, which is due in London at four, and does not stop at Boxmoor, was going at such a rate, and the rails were so slippery, owing to a recent shower, that, in spite of the signals made, the breaks were not powerful enough to prevent it from coming into collision with the goods train. The driver and stoker of the express train, seeing that a collision was inevitable, and knowing that the steam was shut off, jumped from their engine. The driver escaped unhurt, or, at least, but slightly; but the stoker, not having completely cleared the engine, was found on the line, and was for some time supposed to be dead, but, stimulants having been applied, he became better, but he has sustained some dreadful lacerations and other injuries to the legs. It is stated that twelve or fourteen persons were more or less injured. One gentleman had the bone of his right eye driven in and broken, a lady had her teeth knocked out, another was severely cut about the face, and others received contusions about the head and limbs; but, with the exception of the gentleman referred to, no bones were fractured.

A fatal accident from the incautious handling of a loaded gun took place at Birmingham, on Thursday week. A mechanic named Lockley, residing in Holiday-street, having returned home from the garden at the rear of his house, where he had been engaged in shooting small birds, placed his loaded gun, muzzle downwards, behind the kitchen door, intending when he again returned home to discharge it. In the meantime a young man, named Crook, a nail cutter, and his wife, to whom he had been married a fortnight only, and who lodged in the house, came home from work. Ann Crook, the wife, came in first, and her husband, who almost directly afterwards followed, after affectionately saluting her, and requesting her to get him a comfortable cup of tea, was proceeding to wash his hands at a basin behind the kitchen door, when he perceived the gun. His wife had cut a piece of bread, and had knelt down opposite the fire to toast it. Crook, unaware that the weapon was charged, turned round as he took it up, and had scarcely raised the barrel from the ground when it exploded. Lockley, who was in the room and knew of its being loaded, was about to inform Crook of the fact the moment it went off. Almost simultaneously, the poor young woman dropped the bread she was toasting, and sank quietly backwards as though fainting, but, in fact, a corpse; for Mrs. Lockley, who immediately ran to her assistance, clasped her in her arms, and found that she was dead. The charge took effect in her head, and with the exception of a short convulsive twitching of the mouth, she never moved or articulated, so instantaneously fatal was the discharge. The distraction of the unhappy husband, when he perceived the effect of his own incaution, was most heartrending. He tore his hair, and running out into the street, he exclaimed "I have murdered my wife." At an inquest held on Saturday, the jury came to the conclusion that the occurrence was entirely accidental, and returned a verdict to that effect.

Two colliery accidents, attended with loss of life, took place on Thursday week; one at Llanelly, where three men were killed by falling a distance of twelve fathoms, owing to the tilting of the basket by which they were descending; the other, at Cwmbach, where four persons were severely burnt by an explosion of fire-damp. One of the sufferers died shortly after being brought out of the level, and another is not expected to survive.

Another accident from the incautious handling of firearms took place at Bedford last week. Charles, son of Captain Rutherford, Victoria-terrace, took up a pistol belonging to his brother Thomas, off the dressing table, to amuse his brother George by letting off a few caps. The pistol unfortunately being loaded, the ball passed

under George's left ear, and came out at the right temple. The youth died immediately.

A girl about twelve years old, whilst visiting Mr. Batty's exhibition of wild beasts, on the Market-place, Bolton, one day last week, was seized by a lion through the bars of its den, and the poor child was in imminent danger. She was considerably lacerated on the head and face by the claws of the beast; but fortunately the bystanders dragged the child away before the lion had time to renew its hold.

The *Carlisle Journal* records a storm and flood of unprecedented height, at that city, as well as at Penrith and Appleby, on New Year's-day. The damage caused by the inundation has been much less than what might have been expected from its magnitude.

Mr. G. A. Scriven, aged thirty-four, a surgeon, of Deptford, who formerly practised at Peckham Rye, and has been lately in embarrassed circumstances, put an end to his life, by taking poison, on Christmas afternoon.

The body of a man, respectfully attired in a blue pailot, black satin waistcoat, and dark trousers, was found lying partly on the towing path, with the head in the canal, near the Old Ford-bridge, Bethnal-green, on Sunday. The body of the unfortunate man bore marks of violence. Nothing of value was found on his person, and it is strongly suspected that he has been robbed and murdered.

At the Central Criminal Court on Wednesday, William Thompson, aged twenty-six, charged with having, in company with two other persons, robbed and attempted to strangle Adolphus Dubois, dentist, a few weeks ago, by putting a gag round his neck, was sentenced to transportation for life.

James Pennington, a poor man, who had been for many years subject to epileptic attacks, and consequently unable to work, was lately turned out of St. Pancras workhouse for disobeying the rules. On the 14th ultimo he applied for re-admission, which was refused; but he was given a ticket for work on the roads and outdoor relief. The conviction that he was unable to work on the roads drove him to the commission of suicide, which he perpetrated on Thursday week, by cutting his throat with a razor. He survived until Saturday, when he died in the hospital. An inquest was held on his body, on Wednesday, when the above facts were stated. A verdict of "Temporary Insanity" was returned.

The case of cruelty to a parish apprentice, in which Mr. Sloane and his wife are implicated, has found a parallel in Birmingham. In the report of the proceedings at the board of guardians last week, a serious charge was made against a tailor, named Roe, with whom a pauper boy had been apprenticed. The case is yet *ex parte*, but there is no reason to doubt that cruelty of a most revolting kind has been perpetrated on the poor friendless boy. According to the surgeon's report, the hair and the scalp were torn from his head, and his body presents a mass of bruises and discolouration.

Mr. J. P. Hesselton, assistant overseer of Wakefield, has been apprehended on a charge of embezzling various sums of money belonging to the parish by a systematic falsification of his books. The Guarantee Society in London is said to be bound in the sum of £500 as his security, but the amount of his defalcations is said to be much beyond that sum. He has been four years in office at a salary of £70 per annum.

The *Ulster Gazette* says that two flax scutch-mills were maliciously fired, on Thursday night, by some parties at present unknown. One of the mills is the property of Messrs. Atkinson and Bryans, and the other, at Shanecracken, is the property of Mr. Small.

A fire, of a most extensive character, broke out in the premises of Mr. Hutton, the coachmaker, on Summerhill, Dublin, on Sunday morning, which has almost entirely destroyed the premises, and caused a loss of property, it is supposed, to the extent of £20,000. It is gratifying to be able to state that Mr. Hutton is well insured, and that a number of very valuable carriages were got out of the premises without injury.

At the sessions of the Dublin Criminal Court on Tuesday, the only case of the slightest interest was that of a fashionably-attired female named Martha Benson, who had the address and active ingenuity to abstract from the side of a lady who chanced to be her fellow traveller in a second-class carriage of the Kingstown Railroad, in the open day, a gold watch that hung by a guard chain. The lady missed the watch when she got out at the terminus, and the prisoner being pursued, it was found in her possession. She was sentenced, on conviction, to three months' imprisonment, and some people will think her a lucky convict.

The folly of playing practical jokes was sadly illustrated in a farmhouse near Kilrush, on Christmas night. A woman, named Bridget Haugh, dressed herself in man's clothes, and, having blackened her face, went to her father-in-law's house to have some diversion. Her brother-in-law was taking care of the house, as his father was not at home; he had a loaded gun in his hand, and when he saw, as he thought, the man blackened, he presented the gun at his sister-in-law and fired, and lodged the contents of it between her shoulders. She died at once. There was an inquest held on her body, and the verdict returned was "Man-slaughter."

Mr. Anderson, the "Wizard of the North," has not been conjuror enough to prevent his being robbed a few days ago of a large collection of valuable silver coins of Russia, Prussia, France, Spain, Denmark, and other countries which he had visited in the course of his professional peregrinations. The coins were contained in a box in the Rotunda-room, Dublin, where the Wizard nightly exhibits, and were occasionally shown as curiosities to the visitors, and having been left in the room during the day, some persons who probably had watched their "whereabouts," got into the apartment, broke open the box, and carried off the contents, which the Wizard has not as yet been able to conjure back.

TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

J. B. is informed that Segouret's *Histoire Morale des Femmes* can be procured of W. Jeffs, Burlington-arcade, or any other foreign bookseller.

"A Fellow Worker" next week.

It is impossible to acknowledge the mass of letters we receive. Their insertion is often delayed, owing to a press of matter; and when omitted it is frequently from reasons quite independent of the merits of the communication.

Communications should always be legibly written, and on one side of the paper only. If long, it increases the difficulty of finding space for them.

POSTSCRIPT.

SATURDAY, Jan. 11.

The adjourned meeting of Protestant Dissenting deputies was held at the King's Head Tavern, in the Poultry, at two o'clock yesterday, Mr. John Remington Mills in the chair. It will be seen from a paragraph in another part of to-day's paper, that the previous meeting, held on the 4th instant, was adjourned on account of the conflicting opinions expressed in the concluding clause of the committee's report regarding "the Papal aggression;" and that in consequence an amendment, made by Mr. Cunningham, to the effect that the last clause be expunged, was not put from the chair. Mr. Kilpin said as the objection was chiefly to the last clause of the report, he would propose the following amendment:—

"That this meeting, while it records its continued and unmitigated opposition to all penal enactments on account of religious opinions, at the same time deems it to be the bounden and especial duty of Protestant Dissenters to resist by every legitimate means the encroachments of the Papacy in this country, believing it to be the sworn and determined foe of civil and religious liberty; and this meeting further considers that it will be the duty of this deputation, immediately on the re-assembling of Parliament, to meet for the purpose of expressing their views on the present aspect of Popery, especially its recent aggressive policy, and by it petition both Houses of Parliament to protest against any legislative encouragement of that system, and particularly against the continuance of any pecuniary grant towards its support, either in the United Kingdom or its dependencies; and that it be an instruction to the committee to call a special meeting of the deputies at an early period after the meeting of Parliament."

After some discussion, Mr. Cunningham's amendment was put and rejected, as was also another, deprecating any attempt by legal enactment to prevent any portion of Her Majesty's subjects from following out that form of Church government which they may prefer, and at the same time declaring that "it is wrong on the part of any Government to foster or support by its connection with the State, or by State endowment, any ecclesiastical body or institution whatever. This amendment having also been rejected, that of Mr. Kilpin was carried after some discussion.

The Premier has addressed copies of the following letter to his supporters in the Lower House:—"Downing-street, Dec. 28, 1850.—Sir,—I take the liberty of informing you that the meeting of Parliament having been fixed for Tuesday, the 4th of February, business of importance will be brought forward without delay; I therefore request your attendance on that day. I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant, J. RUSSELL."

A public meeting was held at the Court-house, St. Marylebone, last night, for the purpose of receiving and determining on the report of the Metropolitan Sewers Reform Committee, for preparing the heads of a bill to be submitted to Government and urged on their consideration through the medium of a deputation. Mr. Toulmin Smith gave a brief report of what the committee had done, and submitted the following heads of a bill for carrying out administrative arrangements.

"1. Making Districts.—A representative body—elected by the householders of parishes within a given range—to have the special duty of making districts."

"2. Essentials of Districts.—No district to contain less than 100,000, nor more than 150,000 inhabitants. Each district to be divided into wards, each containing not less than 500, and not more than 1000 male adults. Those who have occupied in the ward for a year and a day, shall be electors for the ward. Each ward to have two or more representatives annually chosen—but reëligible—to a district council, for carrying out all local purposes. That it be an express duty of one or more of the representatives of each ward to meet in open meeting the inhabitants of their ward once every month at least—to lay before them the proceedings of the district council, and to receive any complaints or suggestions."

"3. Combinations of Districts.—A general council for all purposes, where combination is needed, to be formed of two persons elected out of its own body by each district council."

Lord Dudley Stuart showed that the Crown-appointed Commissioners gave no satisfaction. Several other speakers corroborated his statements, and it was ultimately resolved to accept the statement laid before the meeting by Mr. Toulmin Smith, as embodying the only principles on which a measure relating to the sewage of the metropolis could be received.

The last examination of Captain Warner took place in the Court of Bankruptcy yesterday. The balance-sheet, which extended over twenty years, contained some remarkable items. From the 1st of January, 1831, to the 31st of October, 1850, he appears to have received from various parties £36,996. Of this £10,800 was advanced by the Earl of Talbot, from time to time, to assist in carrying out his experiments; £1300 from Government, towards the expense of the experiment at Cannock Chase; and the following gifts:—King William the

The Leader.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 1851.

Public Affairs.

There is nothing so revolutionary, because there is nothing so unnatural and convulsive, as the strain to keep things fixed when all the world is by the very law of its creation in eternal progress.—DR. ARNOLD.

THE WORK OF THE DAY.

IN glancing at the progress of the country, last week, we saw that in commencing the second half of the century—after obtaining the Reform Bill for the middle class—the People, it still remains without political power, without the means of using its own independent exertions to better its condition, politically, socially, and economically. The array opposed to these exertions in that behalf is formidable enough to create despair for the friends of the People, if we were to suppose that the Chartist experiences have been bought in vain, and that the People relied any longer on convulsive attacks on the huge compacted fortress of society. As well might any one working man think to take possession of England by walking up to Dover Castle, and dashing his fist against the ramparts. Opposed to the further progress of the working classes in the acquisition of independent power, stands the middle class, quite satisfied with the progress already made. The middle class, a large contingent of the special constabulary which vindicated its prowess so gallantly on the noted 10th of April. Against any further progress of the working class, stands the body of the gentry and all the monied class, that is to say, those who possess influence, power, wealth; who can persuade, intimidate, and bribe many and large bands of the working class to betray their brethren. Against them stands almost without exception the whole body of the professions, that is to say, the active, cultivated, and banded intellect of the country. Against them stands the immense body of troops.

Now, though "sweet are the uses of adversity!" in order even to a convulsive elevation of a People, in order to a revolt, the great essential is *success*. You cannot do without it, even in such elevations; and in any case you must work for it. The working classes have learned this proposition, and now know, or at least a very considerable section of the most thinking men now know, that before any decisive step can be made in the progress of the working class, hard as it may be, much work remains to be done. It does not follow that it is to be slow work; but if it is not to be slow, the diligence must be great. The nature of the work to be done is so clear, that it should stimulate exertion rather than despondency.

In the first place, the People, strange as the expression may sound, really have to obtain their own concurrence. Yes, the one first thing that the Chartists have most especially neglected, is the work of obtaining the active and known concurrence of the great body of the People. The rushing out of the People in a riot will not serve. The mob does but have a lark with the police, and go home again. The active interest, and therefore, the active concurrence of the great body of the People, is only to be obtained in favour of a movement that shall be beneficial to the great body of the People; and not only be beneficial, but be manifestly beneficial to the meanest intellect, and also expressly preached to the People as beneficial. All great popular movements, including that led by the founder of Christianity, have come before the People with a profession, at least—and the profession is the point we are now considering—of bringing to the People an immediate, tangible, and most welcome benefit, such benefit as the People would eagerly and heartily welcome—welcome as they would a feast or a holiday. The work of rousing that sort of interest, and obtaining that sort of concurrence, by devising and planning a policy expressly and manifestly beneficial, in tangible, material, and immediate results, to the great body of the People, is a duty that has been neglected by the Chartists, even to this day; and, without they fulfil that duty beforehand, they cannot successfully make any decisive step towards their progress to political social power.

Most especially have the managers for the People neglected to consolidate an alliance with the great body of the agricultural population. To say the labouring population of the fields is sunk in the lowest poverty, to say that it is kept from the land, when the land and labourer are both starving in default of working, is to say that it is a deeply and a justly discontented body of the People. We have had signs of an aimless discontent in burning ricks; still darker signs, in the reluctance of farmers to urge aloud their own claims on the land, lest the labourers should catch at the word; and in some places the labourers have spoken out. But the organizers of popular power have not yet effected a thorough understanding between the workers of the town and the labourers of the field. This must be done.

The next duty, supposing we have the great body of the People to back the representatives of the People, is to discriminate possibilities: in their next movement, whatever it may be, it will be necessary so to direct it that it shall be capable of success, and, not by the necessity of its nature, certain to end in failure. Even revolution we say, cannot dispense with success; it is an essential element. For example, it would not be a judicious exercise of discrimination if a body of working men were to attempt to storm the Tower or Windsor Castle. They could not do it. Whatever might be the merits or advantages of such a plan if they could not do it no imaginable benefits to be derived from taking the Tower or Windsor Castle could justify the strategy, because all those merits and benefits would be walled off by the inevitable failure. You cannot reckon upon the benefits of what you cannot do.

A further duty which they have wholly neglected, and we say it with hope rather than reproach, is that of putting their trust in high rather than in lower motives. No human power can be great, or stable, or happy, without its aspirations are high. But most especially no class that is comparatively ill-furnished with the wealth, the material power, and even with the cultivated intellect, which are so largely possessed by the classes compacted against them, can hope for elevation, unless it be through some influence still higher than those; and that higher influence is to be found in generosity of soul and exalted patriotism. Of all classes in the world, the working classes of England are the best able to set a personal and collective example of truth, sincerity, generosity, and noble motive. Clear good to their country, not only to their own class but to the whole country and all classes in it, should be the policy of the Chartists—open speaking, noble soul, happiness, and good for all.

It is quite possible even in our own day for a whole community to be animated by one sentiment. We have seen it in Hungary crushed entirely by alien troops, such as England, even the corruptest classes in her, would scorn and hate to summon. We see something of the kind at this very day in Hesse-Cassel, where again Austria and Prussia hold up the miserable Elector. But the fact instructive for us is, that one patriotic sentiment, a desire for the good and freedom of the country, animates every class, animates equally the working body of the People and the very troops by which the Elector is surrounded. Soldiers are by birth and relation working men; and if the great body of the People is animated by a broad, a noble, and an inviting policy, then no body of their class, not even the troops, will be alien to them.

We have witnessed the forbearance and self-possession of the People in Hesse-Cassel vindicating the law against that Sovereign, whose forced restoration as an impenitent law-breaker, constitutes an usurpation; for vindicating the law, the upholders of the Elector are now bringing the Hessian citizens to "justice," before courts-martial, and are sentencing them, mercifully, not to die, but to be beaten with sticks. This shameful spectacle is exhibited to Europe, and the Hessians have no succour; for two reasons—because other nations are like the English People, which permits the existence of a Government that does not represent it; and because, while these Peoples permit usurping Governments to keep up alliances amongst themselves, so that any requisite amount of the official and military force of Europe can be turned upon any one nation,—such as the Hungarians, the Italians, or the Hessians,—the Peoples themselves remain unallied, without mutual intelligence, without any consolidated power to controul the unworthy

Fourth, £1000; Duke of Buccleuch, £500; Sir Francis Burt, £700; Captain Britten, £1000; Captain Collins, £500. Between 1830 and 1846 he had made many experiments upon which he expended £12,077. These experiments, he says, were made "at the request of the late King, the Government, and many noblemen and gentlemen connected with Government. The result of these experiments was generally highly satisfactory; and on two occasions a day was appointed on which final arrangements were to be made for putting Government in possession of my inventions, and for securing to me the consideration, viz., £300,000, and an annuity of £3000. I attended these appointments, but have never been able to get any arrangement concluded." Mr. Lawrence, who appeared for the assignees, said there was no objection to the bankrupt's passing his last examination. He believed the official assignee was satisfied.

At the Central Criminal Court yesterday, Mr. Huddleston applied to the court to give the amount of recognizances that should be entered into by Theresa Sloane, the wife of George Sloane, against whom the grand jury had returned a true bill, for ill-using their servant, in the event of her being taken. The Chief Baron directed that Mrs. Sloane should enter into a recognizance of £500, and that she should also find two sureties in £250 each.

A fire of a very serious character took place at five o'clock yesterday morning, in the extensive cotton-spinning establishment of Messrs. Wallace, Waterhouse, and Thompson, situate in Chepstow-street, Oxford-street, Manchester. Notwithstanding the utmost exertions, the entire building was soon enveloped in flames, and very soon after became totally destroyed. The building was insured in the Phoenix Fire-office for £6000. The stock was insured in the West of England Fire-office for £4000, the Alliance for £4000, the Royal Exchange, £4000, and the Manchester Assurance, £4000—making a total of £22,000. It is said that the loss will exceed the amount of insurance.

The *Newcastle Chronicle* says:—"Reports have reached Newcastle that the Chancellor of the Exchequer is willing to reduce the tea duty '3d. per pound on the 5th of April next, and 3d. each year for the ensuing three years.' The duty on tea is now 2s. 2d. per pound, so that by this plan it would be reduced to 1s. 2d. per pound in and after 1854."

The Ministerial crisis in France is ended at last. The *Moniteur* of yesterday contains the President's decree and signature for the following appointments:—Foreign Affairs—M. Drouyn de Lhuys. War-office—General Regnaud de St. Jean d'Angely. Marine and Colonies—M. Ducose, representative of the people. Public Works—M. Mague, late Secretary of Finance. Commerce—M. Boileau, member of the Municipality and Department of the Seine. Of the late Cabinet Baroche, Fould, Rouher, and Parieu, retain office.

Another decree, which is countersigned by the Ministers of the Interior and of War, revokes the decree by which the National Guard and the troops of the First Division were united under one command. This decree abolishes the post hitherto held by General Changarnier. General Perrot takes the command of the National Guard. The troops of the First Division will be commanded by General Baraguay d'Hilliers. General Careles will retain his post. The Commander-in-Chief, General Baraguay d'Hilliers, has addressed a general order to the army of Paris. He explains the object of his mission; he protests that he will maintain the discipline which his predecessor has established; that it is his intention to uphold the authority established by the Articles of War; that he will respect and cause to be respected the rights and powers established by the Constitution, and that he will give his energetic support to the authorities in the execution of the laws.

M. de Remusat's motion in the Assembly on Friday, that the members should retire to their bureaux to name a commission to prepare resolutions necessary under the present circumstances, was carried, notwithstanding the explanations of the Minister, by a majority of 330 to 253. The Assembly accordingly retired to its bureaux at half-past five o'clock; a good deal of confusion prevailed in the Assembly after the Minister had left the tribune.

On Thursday evening M. de Broglie gave the Club of the Pyramids an account of the interview between the President and the chiefs of the majority. He declared that the language of the President was very parliamentary, that he expressed a desire to act in accord with the Assembly, but insisted on the dismissal of General Changarnier. These explanations are said to have caused much sensation. In private conversation M. de Broglie spoke in more discouraging terms. He said that the Assembly was almost annihilated, and that the President was master of the future, if he knew how to use his power with moderation. In the Assembly the excitement is subsiding.

In the City of Cologne, once the head quarters of the Catholic movement, the ultra-montane candidate for the office of First Burgomaster had only one vote in the municipal council, while his Liberal opponent had twenty-eight. This looks like reaction.

"General Bem," says a letter from Turin, dated Jan. 8, "died at Aleppo, on the 11th of December, after a short illness. He died a Mussulman, and thus received all the honours due to his rank."

The chief actors in the proceedings at Rome, in May, 1849, when the confessionals of the churches were burned, have received sentence, Ciceroacchio and Carbonarelli, have been condemned to fifteen months of forced labour.

power banded against them. This also should be mended.

In this survey we have seen how much work remains for the People to do; but it is work, the nature of which is an incentive not to despair, but hope. It is with that hope that we enter upon the first year of the half century.

THE CONDITION OF GERMANY.

THE affairs of Germany have not made much progress during the last week. The following letter from our correspondent at Bonn, whose excellent letters on German affairs will be remembered by most of our readers, gives a well-balanced view of what quiet, thoughtful men are saying on the great question of the day:—

Bonn, Dec. 31, 1850.

The year concludes, on the part of our rulers, with an attempt (the first serious one since the year of trouble had come upon them) to bring the storm-tossed, uncommanded "Germania" into something like a harbour of refuge, there to pass the winter at least, and, if possible, to settle the mutiny that has been raging amongst the commanders, without the aid of the men: on the part of the people—with a quiet despair of their political selves; or, I should have said, on the part of the politicians which, after all, are not the people. The people are following their trades, are carrying manure to the fields, enjoying Christmas cakes, enjoying the return to their homes too. I heard them sing on their return-march, while their march out was grave and silent. Men of business are presenting addresses and civic crowns to Manteuffel "the Peace-preserver." In the towns they grumble and sneer a little; but one hears less of the "Prussian honour," and no one, not even the Liberal Opposition papers, has a word to say for war now. Yet in town or country, amongst politicians and amongst the people, there has spread a feeling of disappointment and humiliation, manifesting itself with the former in a sort of Hamlet-like self-irony; while the latter, with a good-natured, acquiescing smile, condense their philosophy of history into the indisputable aphorism, "Ja, Deutsche sind halb Deutsche!" and then spit in their palms and send the spade with increased emphasis into the ground.

What has been humorously said of John Bull, that he shall "many times be thought an ass and dull ox," and shall himself believe it, may not less be predicated of Bull's old uncle, the Deutsche Michel. The poor man thinks very lowly of himself just now, and begins seriously to doubt whether he will ever make anything of "the sum of rights which," as the King of Prussia told him only the other day, "God has placed into his hands." He considers the various attempts he has made to settle his household on a reasonable and permanent footing, so as to enable him to think no more of that, and to devote himself entirely to the doing and the getting of his share in the world's work and business, and how he has never rightly succeeded in it. Golden Bulls; Diets at Worms, with "eternal peace"; Diets at Munster, with only "Westphalian peace"; Congress at Vienna; hopeful Parliament at Frankfort, ending now with hopeless Conference at Dresden: still no satisfactory settlement even in prospect. And thus now Michel thinks he will never do it, and has a great contempt for himself, particularly when he calls to mind, as he always does, how much better his nephew John, over the Channel, has succeeded in this. And yet he should be reasonable. If, old as he is, he is still a growing fellow, why should he complain that his breeches require frequent lengthening, letting out, and even patching up? If, different to the rest of mankind, he nurses ideals in his big philosophic head, and will not be contented with the mere actual development of things, but construe them after a theory, why be so shocked when Theory and Fact come in collision—as they must if they are ever to modify and improve each other—and collision causes "reaction"? He ought to remember, too, that he has been going forward all the while, and not backward. At the end of the Thirty years' war, his family had been reduced to five millions; he counts now upwards of forty, mostly of a healthy, hardworking, and even an educated race. His cities are flourishing, his industry and wealth increasing, his lands cultivated to the mountain-tops. Even his much-abused Governments, are they not mostly of a democratical sort, where, in matters civil or military, talent, not family or purse, advances a man? Does he forget that, but fifty years ago, his dear Great Fatherland was subdivided into 1800 little fatherlands, which are now already reduced to the comparatively small number of thirty-five, with every prospect of further reduction and approximation to the Great Oneness? Again, in matters constitutional and liberal, have we not, with our own ears, heard the excellent Professor Dahlmann (who ought to be an authority) tell, *ex cathedra*, his numerous and respectful auditorium (including his Royal Highness the young Prince of Prussia and several minor Highnesses) how he could be much shorter now on many points of constitutional doctrine than he was wont to be formerly, since those truths which he

had then to defend, almost single-handed, against the rampant Absolutism of the country have now been accepted as true by most parties? So that if, after these three years' tribulations, "much abides" yet, "much is taken" also, and getting ready for being taken; witness even those two recent documents, severally signed by Prince Schwarzenberg and Herr von Manteuffel, wherein those two dreaded Reactionists, in convening the Dresden meeting, speak of the old Diet as a failure, and as having been more of a hindrance than a help to the progress of the nation: things for which, three years ago, any newspaper giving insertion to them would have got immediately extinguished, and the writer received free quarters at Spielberg or Spandau. Is not there an advance?

But the good Michel has a great thought that lets him not rest—about Unity and the fulfilling of his great destiny as the Grand Central Empire of Europe. Michel is a philosopher, and will not think me pedantic when I ask him to listen to his great teacher, Fichte. Other peoples, he says, develop the state before the individual, and the part receives culture and lustre from the whole; but the Germans are destined, first, fully to cultivate and to develop the individual in character and in freedom, and then to carry that aggregate of high results to the state, which will shine through the lights of its component parts, and be the perfection of a state. Courage then, friend Michel.

When some one once remarked that the peace of Westphalia was a very bad peace, he received answer that it was better than the war which it brought to a close. Thus, also the treaty of Olmutz contains some ugly points, and is very far from satisfactory; but who will blame the statesman for having preferred it to another Thirty years' war? Two armies of half a million each stood fronting each other, both of the same race, closely matched in numbers, in strength, in resources; Russia stood ready in the background, and France was arming. Who could foresee the end of such a war, once begun? That Manteuffel (or his master?) allowed things to arrive at so critical a point, therein lies his great sin: but for his peace of Olmutz, a peace before the war, he deserves praise rather than blame. That kings and governments are so fearfully reluctant to enter upon war must also be considered a progress in the affairs of the world.

With the arrangement at Olmutz the German question has arrived at its third stage since the great breakup in 1848. Unity of Empire with constitutional Government was the problem to be solved. The Frankfort Parliament tried first and "by sad mistake and adverse fate," failed. Then Prussia undertook the cause, and failed equally. The plan pursued by both was to place Prussia at the head of the union, and form a close alliance with Austria, which was to take its place by the side of the German Union, not within it; it being composed mostly of non-Germanic nations. Austria's opposition to this plan, supported as it was by the dynastic jealousies of the smaller kings, who look upon Prussia as a mere parvenu, proved too strong; they resuscitated the defunct Diet; which again Prussia could not be brought to acknowledge. Till, at last, Prussia and Austria, having found each other indisputable facts, and none being as yet able to swallow the other, have agreed upon "Duality;" and, upon that principle the Dresden Conferences will have to proceed in the reconstruction and improvement of the old Diet. The executive will probably be shared between Austria and Prussia, and be made stronger and more effective than it was under the old system. Bavaria and some of the smaller powers ask for the representation element to be introduced: being naturally afraid that if Frankfort does not become the centre of public attention, it will again be attracted towards Berlin. No great construction can be expected from the parties assembled at Dresden; but if they undertake simple practical measures, such as the equalization of coins, of postage, and the extensions of the customs-union over the whole of Germany, they will have brought the matter to as good a compromise as the circumstances allowed. The rest will follow; and so we do not conclude the old year quite without hope. J. N.

HOW TO GET RID OF THE TAXES ON KNOWLEDGE.

In another part of our paper, appears the second annual report of the Newspaper Stamp Abolition Committee; our readers will have learnt already that a disposition exists on the part of the Government to take off one of the knowledge taxes—the paper-duty. It will be the fault of the people themselves, if the question is narrowed to the trade grounds, which give this tax a preëminence by no means due to it. The advertisement-duty interferes not with one branch, but with every branch of labour; and, as it is levied only on periodicals, it is emphatically a tax on knowledge. You cannot go into a railway or an omnibus without seeing a host of advertisements which evade the duty, by separating themselves from that object of Government suspicion—the newspaper.

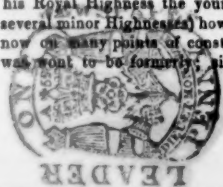
We need waste no words on our readers to prove that the penny stamp, which brings but little to

the revenue, is a most odious prohibition on the working man's newspaper. Mr. Milner Gibson's manly refusal to lower the tone of his previous parliamentary agitation; Mr. Cobden's determination to keep constantly in view the operation of the penny stamp; the difficulty in which the Stamp-office is placed by the repeated demand to enforce the law against Charles Dickens, and others whom they dare not interfere with; and the manifest temper of the public, as shown in the *Morning Chronicle*, *Daily News*, *Nonconformist*, *Standard of Freedom*, and other papers, and at the London Tavern, where one solitary hand was held up in favour of the stamp; all point to the present as the time when a struggle may be made with success. We say then, to such of our readers as are active Propagandists, consider every one of you how best to join the movement. In the report alluded to, a list is given of district secretaries; in the districts named all Propagandists should immediately call on the secretary, and offer him their coöperation. Whereas, for instance, in Norwich and in the metropolitan districts, there is no district secretary, the best course would be for our friends to communicate with Mr. Collet, the Secretary of the London Committee, who will instruct them as to the usual course of proceeding. It is understood that every district committee is perfectly independent; it is only where no such body is formed that the secretary is an agent of the Committee in London. Members of Mechanics' Institutes, Town Councils, Parish Vestries, and of Associations for political or social progress, should propose to their respective bodies to petition, or even to make the free-knowledge question, a special subject of agitation. Publishers should persecute the Stamp-office by asking them to inform them exactly what latitude is permitted to unstamped publications, and copies of these last should be forwarded to Somerset-house, with a request that they may be prosecuted. Every reformer ought to join the movement, because every reformer will gain by its success. Government gave up the theory of the penny stamp last year; if the people are in earnest, the practice will be given up in the present session.

A NEW EDUCATION SCHEME.

MANCHESTER seems determined to maintain its title to the proud distinction of being the most forward town in England on the great question of the day—National Education. The impulse given to the cause by Mr. Lucas and his friends, who founded the Lancashire Public School Association, has begun to tell among the ranks of those who were its most bitter opponents. We have elsewhere given a brief report of an important meeting, which took place at Manchester the other day, to consider a plan drawn up by a clergyman of the Established Church, "to show the practicability of constructing an effective system of local education on the basis of plans now existing." The principal features of this new scheme are, to make use of the unoccupied room in the schools of the various religious denominations in Manchester and Salford; to provide for the contingent expenses by a local rate, and entrust the management to committees elected out of the town councils of the two boroughs. The schools, apparently, are to be conducted on much the same principle as they are at present, with the guarantee, however, that "no creed or formula shall be taught to children to which their parents or lawful guardians may, in writing, object." In new schools erected by the Education Committee "no distinctive creed is to be taught within the ordinary school hours."

Such are the main outlines of the new scheme, so far as we can gather them from the somewhat meagre report of the proceedings which has been suffered to appear in the papers. Without more definite information it would be premature to pronounce any opinion on the merits of the scheme. We are glad, however, to see such a movement, because it indicates a belief that our existing educational establishments are not sufficient for the wants of the day. How far the plan proposed will meet those wants remains to be seen. Meantime we rejoice to find Churchmen and Wesleyans proclaiming the want of a proper system of education. Only let them take up the subject in an honest earnest spirit, and they will do much good. They will, probably, discover that they must adopt a more liberal basis for their scheme before they can hope to obtain popular support. If they are prepared to take that course we can promise them success. If they do not, we incline to think that their new scheme will prove a failure.



THE DISARMAMENT OF SECT.

"CIVIL and religious liberty," has been the war cry of the now-dying agitation in the mouths even of those whose purpose was to crush the liberty of one sect; but if the strong in mind be true to themselves, they will be able to snatch a fuller instalment of genuine liberty than the agitators ever thought of. Already have our anticipations been fulfilled; the dust of the first battle shock has blown away, and as the darkness clears off, men begin to know sides; and many now learn that they have been fighting against their own cause. But they need not lay aside their arms without securing a genuine victory for freedom; and let those in authority who called forth the agitation take the consequences if constituted authority gets rather mauled in the fight.

Already there are signs of the inevitable reaction. The Dissenters are beginning to discern the false position into which they have been betrayed. Lord John Russell and other trusted leaders for Liberal affairs, desecrating troublesome questions in the distance, and seeing the opportunity for a hunt in another direction, raised the cry of "Cardinal," as you would that of "mad dog." The appeal struck so forcibly, not on the positive religious conviction of the Dissenters, but on their old traditional dislikes, that they rushed out pell mell; and in that mood they, the Dissenters, blinded by old dislikes, were actually inveigled into a national demonstration for the spiritual "supremacy of the Crown"! The whole body of Dissenters in England have been tricked.

Such is the effect of yielding to theological passion. A moment's pause, a flash of reflection has disclosed to them their ridiculous situation; but the difficulty is to know how to draw back from it without re-passing through the Slough of Ridicule; how to retract from the great charge of arms in favour of established Protestantism, without making a countermarch in favour of dis-established Romanism. There is another difficulty: having joined in the wild intoxication of the eve, in the orgies of orthodoxy, how can they suddenly become reasonable on the morrow without seeming "inconsistent"—the Englishman's favourite dread; how be rational now, without confessing the past madness? It is the embarrassing difficulty which so often prevents the reform of the conscientious drunkard; he is ashamed of the sobriety which un- says bravado, and denounces his own vice.

Both these difficulties gave pause to the Protestant Dissenting Deputies at their annual meeting on the 3rd instant. In the first place, they hesitated to support unknown legislative measures that might trench on the rights of Dissent quite as much as the Papal aggression had done—much more, we should say, since Crown and Parliament can do something in England, which the Pope and Cardinals cannot. In the second place, with a reviving sense of propriety, they hesitated to call the Church of Rome "an apostate Church;" vituperation being a spiritual licentiousness fitter for the orgies of the eve than the sobriety of the morrow. The meeting adjourned to ponder these matters; and whatever the result might be, the pause indicates the awakening of a better spirit.

So, likewise, the resolution in the Leeds Town Council, to petition Parliament against "interference with the rights and liberties of the Roman Catholics of Ireland." The mover of this resolution distinctly recognized the right of the Roman Catholics "to attempt to convert the people of this country to Popery, as being equal to the right the Wesleyan Methodists had to convert them to Methodism, or the Unitarians to Unitarianism"; and he denounced the intolerant and persecuting character of the Anti-Catholic movement. It is true that this resolution was moved by Joseph Barker, a true man of the People, whose eloquence has earned a personal following which few public men can display; but it is equally true that his resolution met with hearty concurrence, and was adopted by the Town Council. Alderman Luccock protested against the enmity which had been excited, not only against the Pope, but against our Roman Catholic fellow-subjects; another good sign of returning decency.

Others are awakening to truths. The clergy of "the provinces of Armagh and Dublin," in the "United Church of England and Ireland," find that they have been left out in the movement of the clergy of the provinces of Canterbury and York against the "common adversary"; and politely, but anxiously, they have called upon the Archbishop of Canterbury for an explanation. Primate Sumner admits that he ought to have spoken in the name of

"the United Church of England and Ireland," though it might cause him "to have indited an in-harmonious sentence." He promises that "we shall be ready to act with your Grace and the other Irish Prelates as an united body"; but this promise is accompanied by an ominous qualification—it is limited to "all cases where coöperation is desirable or practicable." Primate Sumner will not say to the Irish Established Church, "we stand or fall together." The meaning of this reserve is made intelligible by the *Times*. Lord St. Germans had foreseen the difficulty which now presents itself to the Government through the Archbishop of Canterbury, and he had pointed out, that if Government were to adopt Anti-Catholic measures in deference to the Protestants in England, such measures would be claimed with equal right by the Protestants in Ireland, where an Anti-Catholic policy would be incompatible with peace, order, or the safe conduct of public affairs. The *Times* cuts this knot by declaring that, though the English Protestants must be gratified, the Irish Protestants may be left to themselves; the Protestants of Ireland, therefore, understand that the Government casts them off, while the Catholics will understand the sole motive which arrests the persecution of themselves—fear; for the malignant spirit is already shown against their brethren in England. The Irish Members are alive to this danger; but English Members had better be alive too, if they have any value for "civil and religious liberty."

That is not all: the Tractarians in the Church of England may already perceive, in the Archidiaconal visit to the church of the Reverend Bryan King, following up the attempt to drive out the Reverend William Bennett, that preliminaries are taken towards the chastisement of themselves. With the Tractarians, we class numbers of conscientious men, who entertain views on symbolical observances perhaps more accordant with the true spirit of religion, than the cut and dry formalities of the Low Church, which present devotion half ashamed of itself. Such men will have to defend themselves against officially decreed religion.

A wide-spread panic has been artfully created against the "papal aggression," and while all eyes have been turned towards Rome, which really can do nothing whatever in this country, a real inroad has been made upon "civil and religious liberty;" while fears have been excited against Pope Pius the Ninth, Pope John Russell has effected a manœuvre which is to fortify the Established Church of England at the expense of injury or embarrassment to almost every other sect in the country. In the name of "civil and religious liberty," the Roman Catholics—who cannot levy taxes, who cannot fine men for staying away from church, who do not appoint the Sovereign, or appropriate millions sterling yearly in patronage—are to be coerced and restricted in the internal arrangements of their own sect; while the sect which can do all these things has cajoled all the other ecclesiastical bodies to help it in strengthening its own position. Pope Pius the Ninth is a shadow, powerless to hurt any one of us; Pope John Russell is a dominant, costly, and vexatious reality. In the sects severally led by these two Popes, we see a striking similarity and a striking difference: in both, there is the claim to absolute "truth," in both the animus of domineering; but in this country, there is something which makes one sect work on the side of that "civil and religious liberty" which it is utterly powerless to restrain, while the other, the sect of Pope John Russell—of Pope Innocent the Ninety-ninth—undermines liberty to strengthen its own dominion. What is that difference? It is the possession of secular power. From the actual state of affairs we learn anew the lesson, that the sole condition necessary to make perfect religious freedom for all sects, quite safe to political freedom is, to debar every sect from the possession of secular power: deprive it of that, and it can do no harm.

GOOD TEACHERS WANTED.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Inquirer*—the organ of Unitarianism, says, "I am astonished to see an advertisement appearing week by week in your paper, evidently unanswered, offering a probable salary of £75 a-year for a school-mistress to a day-school, in connection with one of our chapels." His inference is that good female teachers for the best day-schools connected with Unitarian chapels are exceedingly scarce, and he thinks that this is a very important and promising sphere for "intelligent and strong-minded young women." It appears to us a still more wide and promising sphere of exertion will

soon be opened up for "intelligent and strong-minded" young men, by the sudden demand for thoroughly-educated teachers which will inevitably follow the establishment of a national system of education. Were the nation perfectly prepared in every other respect for carrying a legislative measure for that purpose into immediate effect, the scheme would be robbed of more than half its value, simply from the want of a sufficient number of good teachers.

SOCIAL REFORM.

EPISTOLE OBSCURORUM VIRORUM.

No. XXX.—WHO CAN CREATE A PEOPLE'S PARTY? TO THORNTON HUNT.

Jan. 8, 1851.

MY DEAR THORNTON,—In common with others I have read with interest and admiration the series of letters on "Social Reform" which have been reciprocated between you and your friends in the *Leader*. In distinctness and boldness they have exceeded anything which has fallen under my notice before, nor do I think that newspaper literature affords any parallel to their merit and courage. The working classes, so far as I am acquainted with them, appreciate so unusual a contribution to their instruction. But how are the measures therein urged, so opportunely and with so much judiciousness, to be realized? Does any machinery exist for such a purpose? This question has not been asked. Will you permit me to offer you some impressions on the subject?

There is no one to whom I could address these enquiries so consonantly as to yourself. No public man with whom I am acquainted unites so much boldness with a statesmanly advocacy of the people's interests. Surely no one who has lived so much amid political routine has preserved so free a spirit. There seems to be nothing that you fear in the way of generous recognition, or courageous enunciation of popular principle. The *Leader*, written (as a journal intended to be a power for the people must be) at that elevation, calculated to attract and move those who govern, is necessarily somewhat above the language of the populace; but owing to you and LEWIS the *Leader* has that which commands their sympathies; it has audacity, that genial audacity so rare in English journalism, an earnest of success as it is a presentiment of influence.

The very difficulty, I had almost written impossibility, of speaking usefully for the People, and so as to be intelligible to them at the same time, constitutes one of the impediments in the way of creating a Party among them. One who has studied them long, and whom we both esteem, once said to me, "You cannot serve the People in the language of the People"—a saying not to be soon forgotten. It reveals a gulf between the service of the People and their appreciation of that service, for they are only to be interested in that advocacy which is the echo of their language, which enforces their prejudices and intensifies the utterance of their passions, as charlatans know full well. In all this I seek not to present discouragement. Still serve them I would say—patiently and hopefully—but do not expect that large numbers of them will speedily or heartily coöperate in that emancipation, which they but partially understand, and which can follow but slowly after the performance of the ungracious task of their instruction. You will not think ill of this plainness of speech, as none know better that to overcome difficulties we must first survey, measure, and admit them.

Then, first, I ask what can be done with our British populace, that portion who have been accustomed to think on political matters?—who have been inspired but never trained—whose sole political capital is wild energy and indefinite hope. Read their fitness in their character. They reason with an impetuosity that never waits on coherence, and act with a rashness that does not comprehend opportunity—opportunity, that magic word in diplomacy, and without which no political dictionary is complete. Before such a party (if formed) can be directed, it has to be trained. Time will not do it—unless money help time; and the temper of our patriots is a far more difficult element to control than to win time or command money.

We hear much of the propriety of the People helping themselves. When did they do it? Let the question be answered by reference to an embryo society. "The National Charter and Social Union" has been projected to afford a new centre where those may gather who have been repulsed by the incapacity of old associations or disappointed by the narrowness and tameness of new ones. But how is this last union to be organized?

Can the necessary funds be commanded from private resources? That, however, we have no right to consider, if the People are to help themselves. An energetic secretary is wanted, who will devote himself unremittently to active correspondence. Committee-rooms are indispensable. Lecturers free to travel, and able to speak to some purpose, are the next requirement. A tract propaganda must be added to these, for silent information is the surest precursor of active public opinion. Where will the People find the men or the means? Can a dozen men be produced, who will both work and starve? for these have been the qualifications for the *Peoples'* leaders heretofore. Have the Trades Unions another Morison—another Editor of the *Pioneer*, who will kill himself in two years? Do there exist half-a-dozen Hetheringtons who will live half their lives in prison, or on the verge of it, and die in penury? Do you want to know where those are who have really worked for the People according to the light they had? You will find their names in the *Felon's Calendar*; their exile is in Norfolk Island.

You, I am sure, my dear Hunt, will have no contemptuous word, but rather a tear of sympathy for these unfortunate men. Misguided or misinformed they may have been, but you know it would be in vain to look among the middle class, among the better placed and the wiser, for equal devotion. Where else but among the poor do men risk so much and in the name of patriotism, or work so well according to their knowledge?

Why, however, have the friends of the People been consigned to such doubtful fates? Simply because the party of the People has been but a name and not a verity. A party is a delusion, and an impotence without organization; and organization is impossible with them, according to their present notions. All their movements have been matter of accident. There never existed the elements of certainty in any one of their associations. The best politicians among the People are those who value above all things the public virtue that works for nothing. The People pay the Legislator to tax them—the Soldier to fether them—the Priest to limit their reason; but they will not pay the Leader who will emancipate them. They have no horror like that of a hired Agitator—not seeing that Agitator is but the name by which the Government designates the Reformer, just as it calls the revolt of free men the "rebellion of a faction" and the martyr a "felon." But is not the man who is hired to think as honourable as he who is hired to work on a farm? He who develops opinions, or is an artificer in ideas, is as deserving of his wages as any artificer in iron or brass. True, some leaders turn out venal; "therefore," say the People, "we will pay none." They might just as well say, "Some workmen are dishonest, therefore we will have all work in future done for nothing." The result would be you would have no work done: just the result which has followed in the other case. We have no public industry. Wherever the People act the same disastrous policy is followed. Look at their meagre, inefficient, uncomfortable Literary, Mechanics' Institutions, and Mutual Instruction Societies. The Committees must not be remunerated, and the consequence is the institutions are neglected, and whole neighbourhoods left to get what knowledge they can out of gratuitous services. For it is esteemed a greater crime that patriotism should live by its own exercise than that a district should be left to lie in vice and ignorance.

Tyranny says many contemptuous things of the People; but it never said half the bitter things of them which the People say of each other. If a political teacher is paid, his associates assume that he will become dishonest—so they starve him to keep him virtuous: and this is the derisive rule they lay down for the preservation of his integrity. The Government are more honourable to the People than they are to each other, and believe better of them than they believe of each other.

My initiation into affairs of progress was in company with men who estimated above all other virtues, the virtue which worked for nothing. They would denounce the patriotism of the man who accepted a shilling for making a speech, although it had cost him more to compose it than probably those who heard would give to save their country. By a perversity of human nature it happens that those whose who *think* must live as well as those who work. No philosophy is above the vulgar necessity of eating and drinking. The greatest patriot that ever existed did not always go without his dinner. Hampden did not deem it necessary

to go naked, and Washington thought it needful to keep a house over his head. And yet it is very well known, that all the time a man gives to business he takes from patriotism. It was not the failure of Harmony Hall among the Socialists a few years ago which caused that lull in the public hope, in which nothing but stagnation was left moving. There are some causes in which failure is no dishonour, when right intention is overmatched by evil power. Men must run a race against evil although they lose a few times. In the struggle for right the world will honour the vanquished more than the victor. So it was with Harmony. All could have been explained and courage could have been reanimated, but our orators could not face their pay-masters, and the power was withdrawn which had moved over the face of public opinion and excited it with daring and hope. No seducement of interest, no blandishments of society, no frown of power, no changes of opinion generate half the defections from the ranks of the People that are occasioned by the suspicion put upon those who serve them long; or the contumely incurred by entire devotion to their cause.

Mingle amid the Committee of any political association of working men, and what a picture of ardent aspiration and utter public helplessness you there behold:—

"The world by them is parcelled out in shares,
And on their brows sit every nation's cares."

Yet, not one of these persons (all of them being poor) can attend to public affairs, unless they neglect their homes and their creditors; and as none of them ought to do this, and the best of them will not, the result of working-class policy is, that none but the rich or the knaves can serve the public cause constantly; and without constancy of service, no organization is possible.

In another letter I will show that the Leaders of parties have taught the People not to form parties, and how they have learned that lesson.

Yours in good faith and friendship,

GEORGE JACOB HOLYOAKE.

FINAL CAUSES.—The utility-teachers say that oxen have horns to defend themselves; but I ask, why is the sheep without any—and when it has them, why are they twisted about the ears so as to answer no purpose at all? If, on the other hand, I say the ox defends himself with his horns because he has them, it is quite a different matter. The question as to the purpose—the question Wherefore is completely unscientific. But we get on farther with the question How? For if I ask how has the ox horns, I am led to study his organization, and learn at the same time why the lion has no horns, and cannot have any. Thus, man has in his skull two hollows which are never filled up. The question Wherefore could not take us far in this case, but the question How informs me that these hollows are remains of the animal skull, which are found on a larger scale in inferior organization, and are not quite obliterated in man, with all his eminence. The teachers of utility would think that they had lost their God if they did not worship Him who gave the ox horns to defend itself. But I hope I may be allowed to worship Him who, in the abundance of His creation, was great enough, after making a thousand kinds of plants, to make one more, in which all the rest should be comprised; and after a thousand kinds of animals, a being which comprises them all—man. Let people serve Him who gives to the beast his fodder, and to man meat and drink as much as he can enjoy. But I worship Him who has infused into the world such a power of production, that, when only the millionth part of it comes out into life, the world swarms with creatures to such a degree that war, pestilence, fire, and water cannot prevail against them. That is my God!—Goethe's *Conversations with Eckermann*.

JESUS JUDGED BY JEWS.—Dr. Raphael, of Birmingham, says:—"While I and the Jews of the present day protest against being identified with the zealots who were concerned in the proceedings against Jesus of Nazareth, we are far from reviling his character or deriding his precepts, which are, indeed, for the most part, the precepts of Moses and the Prophets. You have heard me style him 'the Great Teacher of Nazareth'; for that designation I and the Jews take to be his due." "I did not term Jesus of Nazareth an impostor," (says M. M. Noah, the American Jew.) "I had never considered him such. The impostor generally aims at temporal power, attempts to subsidize the rich and weak believer, and draws around him followers of influence, whom he can control. Jesus was free from fanaticism: he was a quiet, subdued, retiring faith; he mingled with the poor, he communed with the wretched, avoided the rich, and rebuked the vain-glorious. In the calm of the evening he sought shelter in the secluded groves of Olivet, or wandered pensively on the shores of Galilee. He sincerely believed in his mission; he courted no one, flattered no one: in his political denunciations he was pointed and severe; in his religion, calm and subdued. These are not the characteristics of an impostor; but, admitting that we give a different interpretation to his mission, when 160,000,000 believe in his divinity, and we see around us abundant evidence of the happiness, good faith, mild government, and liberal feelings, which spring from his religion, what right has any one to call him an impostor? That religion which is calculated to make mankind great and happy cannot be a false one."

Literature.

Critics are not the legislators, but the judges and police of literature. They do not make laws—they interpret and try to enforce them.—*Edinburgh Review*.

IN FORSTER's eloquent and admirable *Life of Goldsmith* there are indignant passages on the treatment of Literary Men by Society, and especially on the want of any forethought or care to alleviate the misery incident to so precarious a calling. Opinions differ as to the propriety of pensions and other means of starving off misery; but, meanwhile, as pensions form the only actual relief—scanty as it is—it behoves the public to see that the small sums available are properly bestowed. It is no secret to any one that favouritism has too often taken precedence of real claims; but this week we have to record two additions to the pension list which strikingly exemplify the necessity of a public purse of the kind—viz., the widow of BELZONI, the traveller (how comes it that she has waited so long for this recognition, when the widow of Colonel GURWOOD, who had neither claims nor wants, has been some time on the list?), also POOLE, the author of *Paul Fry*, and so many comedies, whose bodily infirmities have long prevented his doing anything towards gaining his own livelihood. Surely, if any persons can claim the public bounty, the aged and the incapacitated rank first.

The *Dublin Review* has an article on "Catholicism as a Conservative Principle," which both Conservatives and Radicals should read. Strange enough it is in our ears to listen to a defence of Catholicism as identified with the cause of Order, though we admit the truth of the writer's views. We should have preferred a demonstration of the cause of Order being the cause of Truth, and Catholicism sacred because true, not because supporting existing institutions. What the reviewer says respecting the present agitation is very striking; and here is a passage which might read blasphemously in any other pages:—

"Our position then is, that so far as the middle classes may have succeeded in their attempt to prejudice those below them against Catholics and the Catholic religion, they will be found to have inflicted a severe wound on principles which they themselves hold most dear. Take, at starting, one obvious instance. The walls of London have lately been inscribed in a vast number of places with the words 'No wafer Gods.' It has been most justly observed in regard to this (most painful as it is to repeat such things), 'What consistency is there in persons objecting to a wafer God, who themselves believe in a Baby God?' Can those well-intentioned persons who have lately taken a prominent part against us, seriously think (if they will only give themselves time to think) that the east of thought and temper of mind which they have been fostering by such profane and shallow exclamations as the above will stop just where they would have it stop?—that it will attack the Real Presence and spare the Trinity?—that it will sneer at Transubstantiation, and revere the Son's Consubstantiality! When these lines are in the reader's hands, the season of Christmas will be in progress—a season for which the English have had immemorially a special veneration. In the contemplations of that holy period, let our Protestant readers approach in spirit to the stable of Bethlehem; let them gaze on that little Infant at His Mother's breast; let them observe His weakness, His helplessness, His speechlessness; and remember that He is the Eternal God; that He made Heaven and earth by the mere expression of His will; that He can destroy any one of us and reduce us to nothing by one single breath. Can they really believe this, and yet seriously tax us with superstition, or (still worse) cover us with light and unmeaning ridicule for our worship of the Sacred Host? Neither the reason surely, nor the imagination, is more startled by the latter than by the former of these worshipings. And, indeed, of the readiness with which the evil spirit, recently evoked, extends to the most sacred mysteries of the Faith, we have a remarkable instance in a fact which we heard as very good authority, viz., in many places on the walls, in close juxtaposition with 'No Wafer Gods,' appeared the following: 'No Jew God' (!!!) 'No Pigeon God;' in apparent allusion to the Holy Ghost."

We have so often declared our conviction that there is no consistent alternative other than Catholicism or Spiritualism, that we willingly bring the battle upon the perilous ground chosen by the reviewer in his daring attack on Science. He admits that a belief is fast gaining ground which, by subordinating all the phenomena of nature to ascertained immutable laws, rejects as superstition the

idea of any providential interference. If, he says, science can predict the results which must follow, the notion of prayer becomes absurd. If Laws regulate phenomena, the Laws must be studied, and to pray for rain or fine weather is perfectly idle. Quite true. Let the battle, then, be frankly fought between Science and the Church. Let men declare whether they side with NEWTON or the Synod of Thurles. Let them answer this question: Does the Church or does modern Science give the truer explanation of the phenomena of this universe? We are willing to abide by the result; even in the face of the consequences thus pointed out:—

"On the other hand, if once admitted, it seems the obvious and most legitimate consequence, that they shall be extended from the physical to the moral world; and that human events, the formation of character, the growth of nations, the course of history, shall be regarded as matters in the direction of which God has no personal and active concern; which we cannot attempt to influence by prayer, or other impetration, without ignorant superstition; and which are the direct and (as one may say) passive results of that human character, which God has impressed, once for all, at the beginning. Is this a result for which respectable and worthy Englishmen are prepared? And if not, may it not be worthy a thought whether the old-fashioned Catholic position, the prayers for rain and for fine weather, the deprecation of God's wrath during thunder, the regarding the cholera and other pestilences as messengers of God's wrath, may not be the safer and truer alternative to fall back upon?"

Truly there is some pleasure in having to deal with the Catholics: they are logical, they are frank, they are explicit; with the slippery Protestants the case is not so easy to argue! No Protestant, we believe, would state the case so nakedly as in the foregoing passage; yet in truth the alternative really lies there. Shall we listen to Science, or shall we choose the "safer," the "old-fashioned" position of deprecating God's wrath during thunder and cholera? Decide.

In France the dearth of new books is surprising, but the ever-active, ever-welcome DUMAS is, of course, keeping up even with his insatiable readers; they cannot outstrip him, read they never so fast. The story current about GEORGE PRINCE REGENT JAMES (as the wicked TITMARSH called him) making a bet with COOPER, that he, *Darnley*, would write twelve novels while he, *Leatherstocking*, was writing four, would be a triviality to DUMAS—twelve novels! we would back him for twenty, and every one twenty times better than those of the illustrious JAMES. The matchless *Monte Christo* is at this moment honourably paying the actors of the unfortunate *Théâtre Historique* (now closed); and here, on our table, lies one of the draughts—a small one in two volumes only—called *Dieu Dispose*. Take it up, and you will not leave it. The easy, rapid movement, the art with which improbability is made more probable than the truth itself in many writers, the gaiety with just a touch of poetry to season it, the marvellous command of incident and dialogue—all are here. One hopes DUMAS may always have debts to pay, if thus he pays them! Lying beside *Dieu Dispose* are three other novels—*Brin d'Amour*, by the son of PAUL DE KOCK; *La Roche Tremblante*, by ELIE BERTHET; and *Le Capitaine La Curée*, by our immoral friend Le Marquis de FOUERAS, whose *Caprice d'une grande dame* was so much run after. And that is all.

SCHLOSSER'S HISTORY OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

A History of the Eighteenth Century and the Nineteenth, till the Overthrow of the French Empire, with particular reference to Mental Cultivation and Progress. By F. C. SCHLOSSER. Translated, with a Preface and Notes. By D. Davison, M.A. Vols. 1-7. Chapman and Hall.

The eighteenth century was the era of demotion. All the great insurgent minds of modern Europe were glorified in it, fostered in it, or created by it. That process of dissolution which Christian and Feudal Europe had vainly struggled against from the thirteenth century downwards, a process accelerating with every generation—received its open and avowed consecration in the eighteenth century. *Ecraser l'infâme*—to destroy superstition, to uproot dogmatic religion, to democratize Government, to rebel against class legislation, and

protest in all shapes and in all places against whatever was arbitrary, became the "mission" (to use language now popular) of all the remarkable men of that epoch. Viewed historically, as the culmination of negative philosophy, this epoch is great indeed; viewed intrinsically, one must say that it was animated by a false and barren philosophy, as all mere negative thought must be, and that its great men were seldom comparable to the great men of other ages. Nevertheless for what it did (its necessary work of destruction) it remains an imperishable and inexhaustible subject of study and profit. The purpose which animated it was a noble one; the doctrines it proclaimed were for the most part ignoble, because false.

The historian could scarcely find a better subject to task his powers; if Schlosser may not be accepted as the man to do it full justice, he is undoubtedly deserving of the high reputation he has acquired, for sagacity, learning, and effective grouping. He has written a solid, an important book, vast in its requirements, and comprehensive in its scope. He has not the high philosophic power which can so group details that the lesson shall be plainly read by an ordinary mind; nor has he that pictorial power which can re-create the past, and make it a living moving action. But he has vast knowledge, a clear head, a strong mind with strong prejudices, a sturdy independence of thought which refuses acquiescence in stereotyped estimates, and the requisite skill in massing his facts his countrymen seldom exhibit. It is a thoughtful and suggestive, if not a philosophic history. As a mere map of the subject the book is valuable. We have no other history of this period, and Schlosser's, therefore, becomes very important if only because it brings such a world of matter into compact and available shape. It is easier to find fault with it than to do without it.

The same may be said of this translation which Messrs. Chapman and Hall have published, and for which the public ought to be very grateful. It is open to many objections, and yet, when we think of the advantage even to German readers, not to mention others, in possessing a translation of so bulky a work, we think lightly of them. Translations of works of art we hold to be mere expedients; they are meant as substitutes, and should only be accepted by those ignorant of the original language. Philosophical works again suffer so materially from translation (owing to the absence of real equivalents) that they also must be accepted as substitutes. But works of information, such as history, lose little by translation, and that little is more than compensated by the rapidity with which they can be read. We would much rather have Mrs. Austin's *Ranke* than the German; we would rather have this version of Schlosser than the original, although this version is neither elegant nor idiomatic. The earlier volumes swarm with faults. As he proceeds with his task, however, Mr. Davison acquires freedom; and even in the earlier volumes the faults are no more than a set-off against the utility of his arrangement which brings all the literature together as the fitting peristyle of the whole.

In case of a second edition there is one suggestion we would make. Beyond a rigorous revision of the style, which needs it excessively, the translator should get some well-informed literary man to correct his proofs, and not suffer errors like these: Thomas Paine is universally called *Payne*; the disciple of Baumgarten is said to be *Schulzer* instead of *Sulzer*; and Paine's *Common Sense* is said "to have excited at the time almost the same attention as *Die Worte eines Gläubigen* (words of a believer)—a sentence which will puzzle those who do not recal Lamenais' *Paroles d'un Croquant*—by Schlosser, spoken of according to its German title. Indeed, we may generally say that the translator's habit of giving English titles to the German books named by Schlosser is extremely misleading and purposeless: if the English be given the German should be given at the same time; if only one, the German. We have several times been at a loss to know *what* was the book spoken of, so completely does the English title disguise it.

A mere survey of its contents will enable any one to estimate the scope and importance of this work. Beginning with a review of literature and learning, to which two stout volumes are devoted, the remaining five are given to history, as commonly understood. The literature comprises all produced in England, Germany, and France that was remarkable, from Locke downwards. We shall have more to say on this portion hereafter; meanwhile we must notice the incompleteness of a work on such a subject which erases Spain and

Italy altogether from the map. It is quite true that the French *esprit* animated Italian and Spanish literature; but that must be said also of the German, and to a great extent of our own. If English nationality did manifest itself in defiance of French culture, not less so did the Italian nationality in Vico, Beccaria, Alfieri, and others. And it would have been a nice task for the historian to have shown the predominant influence of French thought, which was predominant not because it was French, but because it was the natural product of the centuries—an inevitable birth of time—a great phasis of humanity.

But quitting literature and descending into the arena of political history, let us see how Schlosser proceeds. First comes the great War of Succession in Spain with the oft-quoted Treaty of Utrecht. This is followed by the great Northern War and foundation of Russia as a power in Europe; followed by the Austrian War of Succession and the Seven Years' War—those were fighting days, and their history is for the main part written in camps, though Schlosser has judiciously paid more attention to internal or political action. Then comes the important period from the end of the Seven Years' War to the American Revolution, with the Partition of Poland and the Fall of the Jesuits. And then the great convulsion of the world named the French Revolution passes under review—two very large volumes (VI. and VII.) being occupied with it and Napoleon's career down to the Peace of Schönbrunn. The eighth volume—yet unpublished—will complete the work.

Truly an important century, and crowded with historical matter! There are four periods under which these masses of details naturally group themselves. The first period is that of the greatness of France, elevated upon the grinding degradation of the people, whose oppression was the source of the magnificence of the court. This system, while its factitious splendour dazzled Europe, was so congenial to the tastes and predilections of the reigning classes that it soon became universal. Every crowned head aspired to be a *Grand Monarque*; every courtier longed to form one of so magnificent a crowd. To this day men—especially literary and aristocratic men—look back with regret upon that "Augustan Age," when "genius" was patronized, and when "elegance" was the apex of human achievement; the gay and thoughtless extravagance of a frivolous court brought with it so much "refinement," that vice itself seemed to lose half its evil in losing all its grossness. Men are such children, and so prone to applaud all pageantry, that what wonder if the pagant magnificence of a court outblazoned all that was great and heroic in manhood, and if we, who gaze at it now, forget the sufferings of millions in this mummery of the few? Who thinks of the dirty scene-shifter while wondering at the spectacle?

The first period of the Eighteenth Century was what we may call *The Courtier's epoch*. The second period may be called the *Epoch of Force*—not in the sense of Might being Right, and the Strongest for King—not in the sense of a Divine Right consecrating the crowned head—but in the sense of the Divine Might of Regiments and the power of corruption. England, no less than France, with her Regent Orleans and her Cardinal Dubois, thought that statesmanship consisted in gaining its own ends, without any regard to the means; opponents were imprisoned or bought over. This is perhaps, on the whole, the most disgraceful and unheroic portion of modern history.

But, fostered in the first period, and rapidly increasing in the second, we may notice certain Principles which effectually overthrew all the calculations of both. The splendour of the court was greatly heightened by the congregation of all that genius and wit could furnish. The lance no longer graced the noble's hand; the banners drooped heavily in old ancestral and deserted halls. The ancient sword of the Baron was laid aside. The Pen became a sword! Little did they who played with paradoxes and fostered wit, who were so assiduous in the cultivation of the intellect, and so careless as to morals—little did they suspect that their amusement was to become the destruction of their order! Yet so it was. Thought was emancipated: its temerity was hailed as genius; it struck at the basis of society; threw down all the old idols; shattered to pieces the notion of *castes*, and, by making intellect the great privilege of the human race, naturally brought forward quite a new character upon the stage of the great drama—that character was Humanity in the abstract—the People not the Few.

Then came enquiries into the condition of prisoners and criminals; enquiries into the Rights of Man, and the progressive improvement of the race; then also came the great democratic principle—the theory of progress; and the paradoxes of philosophers passed from the salons into the streets, there to become realities. The bourgeoisie aped the court, and were inoculated with the intellectual notions which reigned there. The arbitrary system fell, as it could not but fall. The Revolution was the terrible outbreak which destroyed it. Feudalism and social hierarchy became extinct formulas. Everything was now amenable to the light of Reason.

The fourth period is that which follows this outbreak, and is purely transitional and reactionary.

Out of the many topics which lie embedded in the mass of history we have thus cursorily indicated, there are two which seem to us peculiarly to need philosophic investigation, because they may be said to contain, as in germs, the whole significance of that century. These are—the theory of Progress, and the theory of Equality. But we must reserve them for a future number.

GOETHE AND ECKERMANN.

Conversations of Goethe with Eckermann and Lorel. Translated from the German by John Oxenford. 3 vols. Smith and Elder.

WE return, according to promise, to these most delightful volumes, for the sake of culling an extract or so. But it is difficult to decide among so many passages which claim attention. For the students of mesmerism we select the two following. His valet says:—

"One time he rang in the middle of the night, and when I entered his room I found he had rolled his iron bed to the window, and was lying there, looking out upon the heavens. 'Have you seen nothing in the sky?' asked he; and when I answered in the negative he bade me run to the guard-house, and ask the man on duty if he had seen nothing. I went there; the guard said he had seen nothing, and I returned with this answer to my master, who was still in the same position, lying in his bed, and gazing upon the sky. 'Listen,' said he to me; 'this is an important moment; there is now an earthquake, or one is just going to take place;' then he made me sit down on the bed, and showed me by what signs he knew this.

"I asked the good old man 'what sort of weather it was?'

"It was very cloudy," he replied; 'no air stirring; very still and sultry.'

"I asked if he at once believed there was an earthquake on Goethe's word?

"Yes," said he, 'I believed it, for things always happened as he said they would. Next day he related his observations at Court, when a lady whispered to her neighbour, 'Only listen, Goethe is dreaming.' But the Duke and all the men present believed Goethe, and the correctness of his observations was soon confirmed; for in a few weeks the news came that a part of Messina, on that night, had been destroyed by an earthquake.'

But here is something still more mesmeric:—

"As I said, we are all groping among mysteries and wonders. Besides, one soul may have a decided influence upon another, merely by means of its silent presence, of which I could relate many instances. It has often happened to me that, when I have been walking with an acquaintance, and have had a living image of something in my mind, he has at once begun to speak of that very thing. I have also known a man who, without saying a word, could suddenly silence a party engaged in cheerful conversation, by the mere power of his mind. Nay, he could also introduce a tone which would make everybody feel uncomfortable. We have all something of electrical and magnetic forces within us, and we put forth, like the magnet itself, an attractive or repulsive power, accordingly as we come in contact with something similar or dissimilar. It is possible, nay, even probable, that if a young girl were, without knowing it, to find herself in a dark chamber with a man who designed to murder her, she would have an uneasy sense of his unknown presence, and that an anguish would come over her, which would drive her from the room to the rest of the household."

"I know a scene in an opera," returned I, "in which two lovers, who have long been separated by a great distance, find themselves together in a dark room without knowing it; but they do not remain long together before the magnetic power begins to work; one feels the proximity of the other—they are involuntarily attracted towards each other—and it is not long before the young girl is clasped in the arms of the youth."

"With lovers," answered Goethe, 'this magnetic power is particularly strong, and acts even at a distance. In my younger days I have experienced cases enough, when, during solitary walks, have felt a great desire for the company of a beloved girl, and have thought of her till she has really come to meet me. "I was so restless in my room," she has said, "that I could not help coming here."

"I recollect an instance during the first years of my residence here, where I soon fell in love again. I had taken a long journey, and had returned some days; but, being detained late at night by court affairs, I had not been able to visit my mistress; besides, our mutual affection had already attracted attention, and I was afraid to pay my visits by day, lest I should encrease the com-

mon talk. On the fourth or fifth evening, however, I could resist no longer, and I was on the road to her, and stood before her house, before I had thought of it. I went softly up-stairs, and was upon the point of entering her room, when I heard, by the different voices, that she was not alone. I went down again unnoticed, and was quickly in the dark streets, which at that time were not lighted. In an impassioned and angry mood I roamed about the town in all directions, for about an hour, and passed the house once more, full of passionate thoughts of my beloved. At last I was on the point of returning to my solitary room, when I once more passed her house, and remarked that she had no light. "She must have gone out," said I, to myself, "but whither, in this dark night? and where shall I meet her?" I afterwards went through many streets—I met many people, and was often deceived, inasmuch as I often fancied I saw her form and size; but, on nearer approach invariably found that it was not she. I then firmly believed in a strong mutual influence, and that I could attract her to me by a strong desire. I also believed myself surrounded by invisible beings of a higher order, whom I entreated to direct her steps to me, or mine to her. "But what a fool thou art!" I then said to myself; "thou wilt not seek her and go to her again, and yet thou desirest signs and wonders!"

"In the mean time I had gone down the esplanade, and had reached the small house in which Schiller afterwards lived, when it occurred to me to turn back towards the palace, and then go down a little street to the right. I had scarcely taken a hundred steps in this direction, when I saw a female form coming towards me which perfectly resembled her I expected. The street was faintly lighted by the weak rays which now and then shone from a window, and since I had been already often deceived in the course of the evening with an apparent resemblance, I did not feel courage to speak to her in doubt. We passed quite close to each other, so that our arms touched. I stood still and looked about me; she did the same. "Is it you?" said she, and I recognized her beloved voice. "At last!" said I, and was enraptured even to tears. Our hands clasped each other. "Now," said I, "my hopes have not deceived me; I have sought you with the greatest eagerness; my feelings told me that I should certainly find you; now I am happy, and I thank God that my forebodings have proved true." "But, you wicked one!" said she, "why did you not come? I heard to-day, by chance, that you had been back three days, and I have wept the whole afternoon, because I thought you had forgotten me. Then, an hour ago, I was seized with a longing and uneasiness on your account, such as I cannot describe. There were two female friends with me, whose vision appeared interminable. At last, when they were gone, I involuntarily seized my hat and cloak, and was impelled to go out into the air and darkness, I knew not whither; you were constantly in my mind, and I could not help thinking that I should meet you." Whilst she thus spoke truly from her heart, we still held each other's hands, and pressed them, and gave each other to understand that absence had not cooled our love. I accompanied her to her door, and into the house. She went up the dark stairs before me, holding my hand and drawing me after her. My happiness was indescribable; but because I at last saw her again, and also because my belief had not deceived me, and I had not been deluded in my sense of an invisible influence."

The ornithological observations of Eckermann are extremely interesting, and quite amusing it is to note the ignorance of Goethe on this subject—he who studied nature so extensively and minutely! The sort of worship all the insect-feeding birds have for the cuckoo is quite marvellous:—

"I had once caught a young linnet, which was too big to be fed by man, but still too young to eat by itself. I took a great deal of trouble about it for half a day; but as it would not eat anything at all, I placed it with an old linnet, a good singer, which I had kept for some time in a cage, and which hung outside my window. I thought to myself, if the young bird sees how the old one eats, perhaps it will go to its food and imitate it. However, it did not do so, but opened its beak towards the old one, and fluttered its wings, uttering a beseeching cry; whereupon the old linnet at once took compassion on it, and adopting it as a child, fed it as if it had been its own."

"Afterwards, some one brought me a grey *gras-mücke* and three young ones, which I put together in a large cage, and which the old one fed. On the following day, some one brought me two young nightingales already fledged, which I put in with the *gras-mücke*, and which the mother bird likewise adopted and fed. Some days afterwards I added a nest of young *müllerchen* nearly fledged, and then a nest with five young *platt-möchen*. The *gras-mücke* adopted all these and fed them, and tended them like a true mother. She had her beak always full of ant's eggs, and was now in one corner of the roomy cage, and now in the other, so that whenever a hungry throat opened, there she was. Nay, still more. One of the young *gras-mücken*, which had grown up in the mean time, began to feed some of the less ones. This was, indeed, done in rather a playful, childish manner; but still with a decided inclination to imitate the excellent mother."

"There is certainly something divine in this," said Goethe, 'which creates in me a pleasing sense of wonder. If it were a fact that this feeding by strangers was an universal law of nature, it would unravel many enigmas, and one could say with certainty, that God pities the deserted young ravens that call upon him.'

"It certainly appears to be an universal law," returned I; 'for I have observed this assistance in feeding, and this pity for the forlorn, even in a wild state.'

"Last summer, in the neighbourhood of Tüfelfurt, I took two young wrens, which had probably only just left their nest, for they sat upon a bush on a twig with seven

other young ones in a row, and the old bird feeding them. I put the young birds in my silk pocket-handkerchief, and went towards Weimar, as far as the shooting-house. I then turned to the right towards the meadow, down along the Elm, and passed the bathing-place, and then again to the left to the little wood. Here I thought I had a quiet spot to look once more at the wrens. But when I opened my handkerchief they both slipped out, and disappeared in the bushes and grass, so that I sought them in vain. Three days afterwards, I returned by chance to the same place, and hearing the note of a robin, guessed there was a nest in the neighbourhood, which, after looking about for some time, I really found. But how great was my astonishment, when I saw in this nest, besides some young robins nearly fledged, my two young wrens, which had established themselves very comfortably, and allowed themselves to be fed by the old robins. I was highly delighted at this very remarkable discovery. Since you are so cunning, thought I to myself, and have managed to help yourselves so nicely, and since the good robins have taken such care of you, I should be very sorry to destroy this hospitable intimacy; on the contrary, I wish you the greatest possible prosperity.'

"This is one of the best ornithological stories I have ever heard," said Goethe. 'I drink success to you, and good luck to your investigations. Whoever hears that, and does not believe in God, will not be aided by Moses and the prophets. That is what I call the omnipresence of the Deity, who has everywhere spread and implanted a portion of his endless love, and has intimated even in the brute as a germ, that which only blossoms to perfection in noble man. Continue your observations and your studies! You appear to be particularly successful with them, and may arrive at invaluable results.'

The following thoughtful passage deserves long meditation:—

"Man is born only for the little; only what is known to him can be comprehended by him, or give him pleasure. A great connoisseur understands a picture; he knows how to combine the various particulars into the Universal, which is familiar to him; the whole is, to him, as living as the details. Neither does he entertain a predilection for detached portions; he asks not whether a face is ugly or beautiful, whether a passage is light or dark, but whether everything is in its place, according to law and order. But if we show an ignorant man a picture of some compass, we shall see that, as a whole, it leaves him unmoved or confused; that some parts attract, others repel him; and that he at last abides by little things which are familiar to him, praising, perhaps, the good execution of a helmet or plume."

"But, in fact, we men play more or less the part of this ignorant person before the great destiny-picture of the world. The lighted part, the Agreeable, attracts us, the shadowy and unpleasant parts repel us, the whole confuses us, and we vainly seek the idea of a single being to whom we attribute such contradictions."

"Now, in human beings, one may indeed become a great connoisseur, inasmuch as one may appropriate to oneself the art and knowledge of a master, but, in divine things, this is only possible with a being equal to the Highest. Nay, if the Supreme Being attempted to reveal such mysteries to us, we should not understand them or know what to do with them; but again resemble that ignorant man before the picture, to whom the connoisseur cannot by all the talking in the world impart the premises on which he judges. On this account it is quite right that forms of religion have not been given directly by God himself, but, as the work of eminent men, have been conformed to the wants and the understanding of a great mass of their fellows. If they were the work of God, no man could understand them; but, being the work of men, they do not express the Inscrutable."

"The religion of the highly-cultivated ancient Greeks went no further than to give separate expressions of the Inscrutable by particular Deities. As these individualities were only limited beings, and a gap was obvious in the connection of the whole, they invented the idea of a Fate, which they placed over all; but as this in its turn remained a many-sided Inscrutable, the difficulty was rather set aside than disposed of."

"Christ thought of a God, compromising all in one, to whom he ascribed all qualities which he found excellent in himself. This God was the essence of his own beautiful soul; full of love and goodness, like himself; and every way suited to induce good men to give themselves up trustingly to him, and to receive this Idea, as the sweetest connection with a higher sphere. But, as the great Being whom we name the Deity manifests himself not only in man, but in a rich, powerful nature, and in mighty world-events, a representation of him, framed from human qualities, cannot of course be adequate, and the attentive observer will soon come to imperfections and contradictions, which will drive him to doubt, nay, to despair, unless he be either little enough to let himself be soothed by an artful evasion, or great enough to rise to a higher point of view."

"Such a point Goethe early found in Spinoza; and he acknowledges with joy how much the views of that great thinker answered the wants of his youth. In him he found himself, and in him, therefore, could he fortify himself to the best advantage."

"And as these views were not of the subjective sort, but had a foundation in the works and manifestations of God through the world, so were they not mere husks which he, after his own later, deeper search into the world and nature, threw aside as useless, but were the first root and germ of a plant that went on growing with equally healthy energy for many years, and at last unfolded the flower of a rich knowledge."

"His opponents have often accused him of having no faith; but he merely had not theirs, because it was too small for him. If he spoke out his own, they would be astonished; but they would not be able to comprehend him."

"But Goethe is far from believing that he knows the Highest Being as it is. All his written and oral expressions intimate that it is somewhat inscrutable, of which men can only have approximating perceptions and feelings."

"For the rest, nature and we men are all so penetrated by the Divine, that it holds us; that we live, move, and have our being in it; that we suffer and are happy under eternal laws; that we practise these, and they are practised on us, whether we recognize them or not."

"The child enjoys his cake without knowing anything of the baker; the sparrow the cherries, without thinking how they grew."

We close with this dictum on Christianity by the Grand Duke:—"It is a humane doctrine, but has been distorted from the beginning. The first Christians were the freethinkers among the ultras." In our Notes and Extracts we shall draw again and again from these volumes.

SERMONS IN SONNETS.

Sermons in Sonnets; with a Text on the New Year and other Poems by Chauncy Hare Townshend. Chapman and Hall.

A VOLUME of pleasant, nay, elegant verse. It is not a book to produce any lasting impression by the felicity or depth of its thought, the beauty of its images, or by that nameless grace of fancy and of feeling which make meditative poetry so charming. But it is the writing of an amiable and accomplished mind, to whom verse has been an elegant amusement, and perhaps a quiet solace.

It consists of sonnets on the months, of which the best are April and October:—

APRIL.

"April! thy very name hath images
Of sparkling showers, and larks in blue air singing,
And rainbows to the hill their bright hues bringing,
And transient storms that move along the leas.
Far off, in purple gloom, as if to please
The eye by contrast more; for sunbeams still
Do with delight the middle landscape fill.
But thou hast claims to love more dear than these:
How youthful thou! How full of all reminding
Of our sweet youth! Nor vain those memories,
Joy unto Innocence for ever binding,
In one deep thought that guards and purifies;
Beloved through all the stains of manhood's years—
If lost, to be resought with careful tears."

OCTOBER.

"October comes with hues magnificent,
The sunset of the year. This gorgeous ray,
Brightest at parting, call it not decay,
But nature's sun and full accomplishment!
Swift let thy fancy to those climes be sent,
Where glows the vintage,—where a ripen day
Doth on the gold and purple clusters play,
Into the wine-vat toss'd! Then, homeward bent,
Let thy glad glances find a happy goal
Where lustrous mosses gild the forest-floor,
Or where rich farms their garner'd harvest store,
Till sink the season's wealth into thy soul.
On present joy to seize—the crime of folly—
In Nature's children is a wisdom holy."

Then follows a poem on the new year, and one hundred and nine sermons in sonnets, each being a poetic commentary on some Scripture text. The feeling of these sermons is gentle and pious: a true poet's Christianity extracting all the sweetness from the text, and leaving the bitterness to polemics. Here are two we recommend to those who adopt the comfortable faith of eternal damnation:—

"Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee."—*Isaiah*, xlii. 9.

"The thought that any should have endless woe
Would cast a shadow on the throne of God
And darken Heaven. . . From the scarce-worm clod
To Seraphs, all Him as a Father know;
He, all as children. Even with us below
The one rebellious son more thought and love
Than all the rest will in a parent move,
God stirring in us. Then how strong the glow
Of God's great heart our sorrows to relieve!
Could He be blest, beholding sufferings,
And not their end? His tenderness would grieve
If even the least of His created things
Should miss of joy. In its serenity
God's present happiness proves ours to be."

We are chastened that we be not condemned.—1 Cor. ii. 32.

"Yes, chastisement must be!—only, instead
Of bitter vengeance, read corrective love,
Methinks this thought would more impress and move,
And realizing influence o'er us shed,
Than all fantastic terrors, bigot-bred:
Souls by the just and true alone improve;
And true it is, that ill acts from above
Draw down a retribution on the head;
But stripes of vengeful wrath no better bring.
Only, when smitten by a Father's hand,
We kiss the rod of heavenly chastening,
That blossoms into joy like Aaron's wand.
Oh, then! 'twere wise weak mortals to protect
From threats too horrible to take effect."

We will venture on one more sonnet:—

"In my Father's House are many mansions."—*St. John*, xiv. 2.

"Ye orbs that tremble through infinity,
And are ye, then, link'd only with our eyes,
Dissever'd from our thoughts, our smiles, our sighs,—
Our hopes and dreams of being, yet to be?
Oh, if all nature be a harmony
(As sure it is), why in those solemn skies
Should ye our vision mock, like glittering lies
To man all unrelated? Must I see
Your glories only as a tinsell'd waste?
If so, I half despise your spectacle!
But, if I deem that ye form æras vast,
And do, by mighty revolution, tell
Time to intelligent existences;
Awe-struck, I do assist at your solemnities!"

Some miscellaneous poems follow, but they are scarcely equal to the sonnets; but this is an admirable touch:—

"For me
Fitter the silence of some dreary heath,
The chillness of some desert solitude;
For joy is such a stranger to my soul,
Its touch alarms me more than that of grief."

THACKERAY AND THE THUNDERER.

The Kickleburys on the Rhine. By M. A. Tiltmarsh. Second Edition, with a Preface. Smith and Elder.

As a general rule, nothing can be more ill-advised than a reply to a criticism, and, above all, to a criticism in the *Times*. Quite apart from the policy of such an act, there is this disadvantage, that you, the author, demurring to the judgment of the critic, are placing yourself in a false position, and the public feel this. But if you can turn the laugh against your critic you disarm the public, and in some sense triumph.

Mr. Tiltmarsh has certainly adopted the best possible tone, since he was determined to reply. The *Times* published an article on his *Kickleburys*; in the preface to the second edition we have the jocular answer—merciless in its contempt—for he can "murder while he smiles"—and successful, as far as putting his critic in the pillory is concerned. The exposure of hollow pretension and ludicrous magniloquence is complete. He prints the whole article—does not affect to be indifferent to it—but takes his revenge by criticising the critic. For the amusement of our readers we give the whole of it:

"Any reader who may have a fancy to purchase a copy of this present second edition of the *History of the Kickleburys Abroad* had best be warned in time that the *Times* newspaper does not approve of the work, and has but a bad opinion both of the author and his readers. Nothing can be fairer than this statement: if you happen to take up the poor little volume at a railroad station, and read this sentence, lay the book down and buy something else. You are warned. What more can the author say? If after this you will buy—amen! Pay your money, take your book, and fall to. Between ourselves, honest reader, it is no very strong potation which the present purveyor offers to you. It will not trouble your head much in the drinking. It was intended for that sort of negus which is offered at Christmas parties: and of which ladies and children may partake with refreshment and cheerfulness. Last year I tried a brew which was old, bitter, and strong; and scarce any one would drink it. This year we send round a milder tap, and it is liked by customers: though the critics (who like strong ale, the rogues!) turn up their noses. In heaven's name, Mr. Smith, serve round the liquor to the gentlefolks. Pray, dear madam, another glass; it is Christmas time, it will do you no harm. It is not intended to keep long, this sort of drink. (Come froth up, Mr. Publisher, and pass quickly round!) And, as for the professional gentlemen, we must get a stronger sort for them some day.

"The *Times* gentleman (a very difficult gent. to please) is the loudest and noisiest of all, and has made more hideous faces over the refreshment offered to him than any other critic. There is no use shirking this statement: when a man has been abused in the *Times* he can't hide it, any more than he could hide the knowledge of his having been committed to prison by Mr. Henry, or publicly caned in Pall-Mall. You see it in your friends' eyes when they meet you. They know it. They have chuckled over it to a man. They whisper about it at the club, and look over the paper at you. My next-door neighbour came to see me this morning, and I saw by his face that he had the whole story pat. 'Hem!' says he, 'well, I have heard of it; and the fact is, they were talking about you at dinner last night, and mentioning that the *Times* had—ahem!'—walked into you."

"My good M.—(I say, and M.—will corroborate, if need be, the statement I make here), here is the *Times* article, dated January 4th, which states so and so, and here is a letter from the publisher, likewise dated January 4th, and which says:—

"My dear Sir,—Having this day sold the last copy of the first edition (of x thousand) of the *Kickleburys Abroad*, and having orders for more, had we not better proceed to a second edition? and will you permit me to enclose an order on, &c. &c.?"

"Singular coincidence! And if every author who was so abused by a critic had a similar note from a publisher, good Lord! how easily would we take the critic's censure!

"Yes, yes," you say; "it is all very well for a writer to affect to be indifferent to a critique from the *Times*.

You bear it as a boy bears a flogging at school, without crying out; but don't swagger and brag as if you liked it."

"Let us have truth before all. I would rather have a good word than a bad one from any person: but if a critic abuses me from a high place, and it is worth my while, I will appeal. If I can show that the judge who is delivering sentence against me, and laying down the law and making a pretence of learning, has no learning and no law, and is neither more nor less than a pompous noodle, who ought not to be heard in any respectable court, I will do so; and then, dear friends, perhaps you will have something to laugh at in this book."

[Here follows the critique extracted from the *Times*.]

"There is the whole article. And the reader will see (in the paragraph preceding that memorable one which winds up with the diseased oyster), that he must be a worthless creature for daring to like the book, as he could only do so from a desire to hug himself in a sense of superiority by admeasurement with the most worthless of his fellow-creatures!

"The reader is worthless for liking a book of which all the characters are worthless except two which are offered to his respectful admiration; and of these two the author does not respect one, but struggles not to laugh in his face; whilst he apparently speaks of another in a tone of religious reverence, because the lady is a countess, and because he (the author) is a sneak. So reader, author, characters, are rogues all. Be there any honest men left, Hal? About Printing-house-square, mayhap you may light on an honest man, a squeamish man, a proper moral man, a man that shall talk you Latin by the half column if you will but hear him.

"And what a style it is, that great man's! What hight of fine language entirely! How he can discourse you in English for all the world as if it was Latin! For instance, suppose you and I had to announce the important news that some writers published what are called Christmas books; that Christmas books are so called because they are published at Christmas; and that the purpose of the authors is to try and amuse people. Suppose, I say, we had by the sheer force of intellect, or by other means of observation or information, discovered these great truths, we should have announced them in so many words. And there it is that the difference lies between a great writer and a poor one; and we may see how an inferior man may fling a chance away. How does my friend of the *Times* put these propositions? 'It has been customary,' says he, 'of late years for the purveyors of amusing literature to put forth certain opus-cules, denominated Christmas books, with the ostensible intention of swelling the tide of exhilaration, or other expansive emotions, incident upon the æquinox of the old or the inauguration of the new year.' That is something like a sentence; not a word scarcely but's in Latin, and the longest and handsomest out of the whole dictionary. That is proper economy—as you see a buck from Holywell street put every pinchbook pin, ring, and chain which he possesses about his shirt, hands, and waistcoat, and then go and cut a dash in the Park, or swagger with his order to the theatre. It costs him no more to wear all his ornaments about his distinguished person than to leave them at home. If you can be a swell at a cheap rate, why not? And I protest, for my part, I had no idea what I was really about in writing and submitting my little book for sale until my friend the critic, looking at the article, and examining it with the eyes of a connoisseur, pronounced that what I had fancied simply to be a book was in fact 'an opusculum, denominated so-and-so, and ostensibly intended to swell the tide of expansive emotion incident upon the inauguration of the new year.' I can hardly believe as much even now—so little do we know what we really are after, until men of genius come and interpret.

"And, besides the ostensible intention, the reader will perceive that my judge has discovered another latent motive, which I had 'locked up in my own breast.' The sly rogue! (if we may so speak of the court). There is no keeping anything from him; and this truth, like the rest, has come out, and is all over England by this time. O that all England, which has bought the judge's charge, would purchase the prisoner's plea in mitigation! 'O that any muse should be set on a high stool,' says the bench, 'to east up accounts and balance a ledger! Yet so it is; and the popular author finds it convenient to fill up the declared deficit by the omission of Christmas books—a kind of assignats that bear the stamp of their origin in the vacuity of the writer's exchequer.' There is a trope for you! You rascal, you wrote because you wanted money! His lordship has found out what you were at, and that there is a deficit in your till. But he goes on to say that we poor devils are to be pitied in our necessity, and that these compositions are no more to be taken as examples of our merits than the verses which the dustman leaves at his lordship's door 'as a provocative of the expected annual gratuity,' are to be considered as measuring his, the scavenger's, valuable services—nevertheless the author's and the scavenger's 'effusions may fairly be classed, for their intrinsic worth, no less than their ultimate purport.'

"Heaven bless his lordship on the bench—What a gentlemanlike badinage he has, and what a charming and playful wit always at hand! What a sense he has for a simile, or what Mrs. Malaprop calls an odorous comparison, and how gracefully he conducts it to 'its ultimate purport.' A gentleman writing a poor little book is a scavenger asking for a Christmas-box!

"As I try this small-beer which has called down such a deal of thunder, I can't help thinking that it is not Jove who has interfered (the case was scarce worthy of his divine vindictiveness); but the Thunderer's man, Jupiter Jeames, taking his master's place, adopting his manner, and trying to dazzle and roar like his awful employer. The figure of the dustman has hardly been flung from heaven: that 'ultimate purport' is a subject which the Immortal would hardly handle. Well, well;

let us allow that the book is not worthy of such a polite critic—that the beer is not strong enough for a gentleman who has taste and experience in beer.

"That opinion no man can ask his honour to alter; but (the beer being the question), why make unpleasant allusions to the *Gazette*, and hint at the probable bankruptcy of the brewer? Why twist me with my poverty; and what can the *Times* critic know about the vacuity of my exchequer? Did he ever lend me any money? Does he not himself write for money? (and who would grudge it to such a polite, and generous, and learned author?) If he finds no disgrace in being paid, why should I? If he has been ever poor, why should he joke at my empty exchequer? Of course such a genius is paid for his work: with such neat logic, such a pure style, such a charming poetical turn of phrase, of course a critic gets money. Why, a man who can say of a Christmas book that 'it is an opusculum denominated so and so, and ostensibly intended to swell the tide of expansive emotion incident upon the exodus of the old year,' must evidently have had immense sums and care expended on his early education, and deserves a splendid return. You can't go into the market, and get scholarship like that, without paying for it: even the flogging that such a writer must have had in early youth (if he was at a public school where the rods were paid for), must have cost his parents a good sum. Where would you find any but an accomplished classical scholar to compare the books of the present (or, indeed, any other) writer to 'sardonic divings after the pearl of truth, whose lustre is eclipsed in the display of the diseased oyster; mere *Billingsgate* doesn't turn out oysters like these: they are of the Lucrine lake;—this satirist has pickled his rods in Latin brine. Fancy, not merely a diver, but a sardonic diver: and the expression of his confounded countenance on discovering not only a pearl, but an eclipsed pearl, who was in a diseased oyster! I say it is only by an uncommon and happy combination of taste, genius, and industry, that a man can arrive at uttering such sentiments in such fine language,—that such a man ought to be well paid, as I have no doubt he is, and that he is worthily employed to write literary articles, in large type, in the leading *Journal of Europe*. Don't we want men of eminence and polite learning to sit on the literary bench, and to direct the public opinion?"

"But when this profound scholar compares me to a scavenger, who leaves a copy of verses at his door and begs for a Christmas-box, I must again cry out, and say, 'My dear sir, it is true your simile is offensive, but can you make it out? Are you not hasty in your figures and allusions?' If I might give a hint to so consummate a rhetorician, you should be more careful in making your figures figures, and your similes like: for instance, when you talk of a book 'swelling the tide of exhilaration incident to the inauguration of the New Year,' or of a book 'bearing the stamp of its origin in vacuity,' &c.,—or of a man diving sardonically; or of a pearl eclipsed in the display of a diseased oyster—there are some people who will not apprehend your meaning: some will doubt whether you had a meaning: some even will question your great powers and say, 'Is this man to be a critic in a newspaper, which knows what English and Latin too, and what sense and scholarship, are?' I don't quarrel with you—I take for granted your wit and learning, your modesty and benevolence—but why scavenger—Jupiter James—why scavenger? A gentleman, whose biography the *Examiner* was fond of quoting before he took his present sardonic and orthodox turn, was pursued by an outraged wife to the very last stage of his existence with an appeal almost as pathetic—'Ah, sir, why scavenger?'

"How can I be like a dustman that rings for a Christmas-box at your hall-door? I never was there in my life. I never left at your door a copy of verses provocative of an annual gratuity, as your noble honour styles it. Who are you? If you are the man I take you to be: it was you who asked the publisher for my book, and not I who sent it in, and begged a gratuity of your worship. You abused me out of the *Times*' window; but if ever your noble honour sent me a gratuity out of your own door, may I never drive another dust cart. 'Provocative of a gratuity!' O splendid swell! How much was it your worship sent out to me by the footman? Every farthing you have paid I will restore to your lordship, and I swear I shall not be a halfpenny the poorer.

"As before, and on similar seasons and occasions, I have compared myself to a person following a not dissimilar calling, let me suppose, now, for a minute, that I am a writer of a Christmas farce, who sits in the pit, and sees the performance of his own piece. There comes applause, hissing, yawning, laughter, as may be; but the loudest critic of all is our friend the cheap buck, who sits yonder and makes his remarks, so that all the audience may hear. 'This a farce!' says Beau Tibbs, 'demmy! it's the work of a poor devil who writes for money,—confound his vulgarity! This a farce! Why isn't it a tragedy, or a comedy, or an epic poem, stap my vitals? This a farce, indeed! It's a feller as sends round his 'at, and appeals to charity. Let's 'ave our money back again, I say.' And he swaggers off;—and you find the fellow come in with an author's order.

"But if, in spite of Tibbs, our 'kynd friends,' &c. &c. &c.—if the little farce, which was meant to amuse Christmas (or what my classical friend calls *Exodus*), is asked for, even up to Twelfth Night,—shall the publishers stop because Tibbs is dissatisfied? Whenever that capitalist calls to get his money back, he may see the letter from the respected publisher, informing the author that all the copies are sold, and that there are demands for a new edition. Up with the curtain, then! Vivat Regina! and no money returned, except the *Times*' 'gratuity!'

Jan. 6, 1851.

M. A. TITMARCH.

BOOKS ON OUR TABLE.

The Trades Unions Magazine. Edited by the Reverend T. G. Lee.

This is a new magazine, intended as a precursor to a

People's Newspaper. It is edited by one who thinks that "the people and the pulpit have become fearfully estranged from each other." There is much in the spirit of this magazine which is calculated to be useful to the people, and we shall be glad to notice its progress.

The Fine Arts Almanac, or Artists' Remembrancer for 1851. George Rowney and Co., London. A little book which, by economy of space, is made to hold a great amount of useful information.

The Passions of the Human Soul. By Charles Fourier. Translated from the French by the Reverend John Reynell Morell. With Critical Annotations, a Biography of Fourier, and a General Introduction. By Hugh Doherty. 2 Vols. Hippolyte Bailliere.

Conscience. A Tale of Life. 1 Vol. W. H. Elkins. *Happiness in its Relation to Work and Knowledge.* An Introductory Lecture delivered before the Members of the Chichester Literary Society and Mechanics' Institute. By John Forbes, M.D., F.R.S. Smith, Elder, and Co.

"God is Love." A Sermon preached in St. Peter's Church, Brighton. By the Reverend H. M. Wagner, M.A.

The Imperial Cyclopaedia. Part 6. H. S. King. *Knight's Pictorial Shakespeare.* (King Richard II.) C. Knight.

Half Hours with the Best Authors. Part 10. C. Knight. *Pictorial Half Hours.* Part 8. C. Knight. *Knight's Cyclopaedia of London.* Part 2. C. Knight. *Knight's Cyclopaedia of Industry of all Nations.* Part 2. C. Knight.

The British Journal of Homoeopathy. No. 33. S. Highley. *The Signs of the Times, or the Popery of Protestantism.* H. J. Gibbs.

Peter Little and the Lucky Sixpence, the Frog's Lecture, and other Stories; a Verse-Book for my Children and their Play-mates. James Ridgway.

The Looker-on.

NOTES AND EXTRACTS.

RELIGION IN ART.—Religion stands in the same relation to art as any other of the higher interests in life. It is merely to be looked upon as a material, with similar claims to any other vital material. Faith, and want of faith, are not the organs with which a work of art is to be apprehended. On the contrary, human powers and capacities of a totally different kind are required. Art must address itself to those organs with which we apprehend it; otherwise it misses its effect. A religious material may be a good subject for art, but only in so far as it possesses general human interest. The Virgin with her Child is on this account an excellent subject, and one that may be treated on a hundred times, and always seen again with pleasure.—*Goethe*.

THE OXFORD THEOLOGIAN.—He sees, upon a writer the most mean and tedious, the *imprimatur* of ecclesiastical adoption, and wastes upon him the reverence due to thought and genius. He allows dogmatic grounds to determine all his judgments of human character and literary merit: the silliness of Epiphanius escapes him, lest a needful witness be lost: for fear of encouraging Jovinian, Jerome's fanatic passions must have their way: the apprehension of Arius makes everything in Athanasius "great;" and the presence of Pelagius excites Augustine's persecuting zeal. The bald grossness of the Ambrosian hymns is extolled for simplicity and grandeur; and the conceits of Marbod and Hildebert for poetic richness and fertility. Anselm becomes the model of a philosopher; Aquinas, of a theologian; and Bernard, of a saint. Kings and Emperors are estimated, not by their capacity and virtues, but by their orthodoxy; Constantine, the murderer of all his kindred; Theodosius, who desolated the streets of Antioch and Thessalonica with frightful and almost gratuitous massacres; are applauded as "great," because they were prodigal to the clergy, and merciless to heretics.—*Westminster and Foreign Quarterly Review*.

AGE AND WISDOM.—"People always fancy," said Goethe, laughing, "that we must become old to become wise; but, in truth, as years advance, it is hard to keep ourselves as wise as we were. Man becomes, indeed, in the different stages of his life, a different being; but he cannot say that he is a better one, and, in certain matters, he is as likely to be right in his twentieth, as in his sixtieth year. We see the world one way from a plain, another way from the heights of a promontory, another from the glacier fields of the primary mountains. We see, from one of these points, a larger piece of world than from the other; but that is all, and we cannot say that we see more truly from any one than from the rest. When a writer leaves monuments on the different steps of his life, it is chiefly important that he should have an innate foundation and goodwill; that he should, at each step, have seen and felt clearly, and that, without any secondary aims, he should have said distinctly and truly what has passed in his mind. Then will his writings, if they were right at the step where they originated, remain always right, however the writer may develop or alter himself in after times."—*Goethe's Conversations with Eckermann*.

THE FUTURE STATE.—Dogmatic authority has invented and illustrated an external Heaven and Hell, neither of which exercises much influence on the minds of the generality of mankind. The Heaven dull, tiresome, and unreal, enlists neither the judgment nor the imagination; while the Hell is so portentously hideous that the very extremity of horror defeats its purpose, and people take refuge in utter disbelief. The few that dwell seriously upon the thought of falling into such an abyss, are happily relieved from intolerable fear by losing their senses or their life. The excuse sometimes alleged in behalf of horrors that every one at heart ignores, is the propriety of benevolently alarming those with whom fear is the strongest motive; but neither faith nor salvation can be made consistent with untruth.—*Wilson's Catholicity, Spiritual and Intellectual*.

Portfolia.

We should do our utmost to encourage the Beautiful, for the Useful encourages itself.—*Goethe*.

THE LONELY FLOWER.

A flow'et grew in a tangled brake,
In the depth of a forest-glade,
And scarce a ray from the orb of day
To this lonely flow'et stray'd.

Yet, spite of the weeds that round it grew
And choked its plot of ground,
Did this flow'et bloom, and its sweet perfume
Fill'd all the air around.

But, all unseen and all unknown,
Its perfume still untasted,
Alone it grew—its lovely hue,
Its sweetness even wasted.

The sun was high, the darksome glade
Scarce felt the summer breeze,
When a Poet stray'd to recline in the shade
Of the lordly forest-trees.

He lay near the spot where the flow'et grew,
And haply his vision fell
Where its tiny head o'er its rugged bed
Hung like a fairy bell.

"Sweet flow'et," he cried, "why thus unseen
Should thy beauty linger here?
To the light of day I will bear thee away,
Thou child of a brighter sphere."

The flow'et is gone from the tangled brake;
It blooms in the Poet's home;
And no more to the shade of the forest-glade
Do the Poet's footsteps roam.

Thus lonely a gentle spirit dwelt,
All pure 'mid earthly leaven;
God's angel hath ta'en that spirit again,
To bloom in its native heaven!

A. W. C.

SKETCHES FROM LIFE.

By HARRIET MARTINEAU.
V.—THE FACTORY BOY.

In the middle of a dark night, Joel, a boy of nine years old, heard his name called by a voice which, through his sleep, seemed miles away. Joel had been tired enough when he went to bed, and yet he had not gone to sleep for some time; his heart beat so at the idea of his mother being very ill. He well remembered his father's death, and his mother's illness now revived some feelings which he had almost forgotten. His bed was merely some clothes spread on the floor, and covered with a rug; but he did not mind that; and he could have gone to sleep at once but for the fear that had come over him. When he did sleep, his sleep was sound; so that his mother's feeble voice calling him seemed like a call from miles away.

In a minute Joel was up and wide awake.
"Light the candle," he could just hear the voice say.

He lighted the candle, and his beating heart seemed to stop when he saw his mother's face. He seemed hardly to know whether it was his mother or no.

"Shall I call . . . ?"

"Call nobody, my dear. Come here."

He laid his cheek to hers.

"Mother, you are dying," he murmured.

"Yes, love, I am dying. It is no use calling any one. These little ones, Joel."

"I will take care of them, mother."

"You, my child! How should that be?"

"Why not?" said the boy, raising himself, and standing at his best height. "Look at me, mother. I can work. I promise you . . ."

His mother could not lift her hand, but she moved a finger in a way which checked him.

"Promise nothing that may be too hard afterwards," she said.

"I promise to try then," he said; "that little sister shall live at home, and never go to the work-house." He spoke cheerfully, though the candle-light glittered in the two streams of tears on his cheeks. "We can go on living here; and we shall be so . . ."

It would not do. The sense of their coming desolation rushed over him in a way too terrible to be

borne. He hid his face beside her, murmuring, "O mother! mother!"

His mother found strength to move her hand now. She stroked his head with a trembling touch, which he seemed to feel as long as he lived. She could not say much more. She told him she had no fear for any of them. They would be taken care of. She advised him not to waken the little ones, who were sound asleep on the other side of her, and begged him to lie down himself till daylight, and try to sleep, when she should be gone.

This was the last thing she said. The candle was very low; but before it went out, she was gone. Joel had always done what his mother wished; but he could not obey her in the last thing she had said. He lighted another candle when the first went out; and sat thinking, till the grey dawn began to show through the window.

When he called the neighbours, they were astonished at his quietness. He had taken up the children, and dressed them, and made the room tidy, and lighted the fire, before he told any body what had happened. And when he opened the door, his little sister was in his arms. She was two years old, and could walk, of course; but she liked being in Joel's arms. Poor Willy was the most confounded. He stood with his pinafore at his mouth, staring at the bed, and wondering that his mother lay so still.

If the neighbours were astonished at Joel that morning, they might be more so at some things they saw afterwards; but they were not. Every thing seemed done so naturally; and the boy evidently considered what he had to do so much a matter of course, that less sensation was excited than about many smaller things.

After the funeral was over, Joel tied up all his mother's clothes. He carried the bundle on one arm, and his sister on the other. He would not have liked to take money for what he had seen his mother wear; but he changed them away for new and strong clothes for the child. He did not seem to want any help. He went to the factory the next morning, as usual, after washing and dressing the children, and getting a breakfast of bread and milk with them. There was no fire; and he put every knife, and other dangerous thing on a high shelf, and gave them some trifles to play with, and promised to come and play with them at dinner time. And he did play. He played heartily with the little one, and as if he enjoyed it, every day at the noon hour. Many a merry laugh the neighbours heard from that room when the three children were together; and the laugh was often Joel's.

How he learned to manage, and especially to cook, nobody knew; and he could himself have told little more than that he wanted to see how people did it, and looked accordingly, at every opportunity. He certainly fed the children well; and himself too. He knew that every thing depended on his strength being kept up. His sister sat on his knee to be fed till she could feed herself. He was sorry to give it up; but he said she must learn to behave. So he smoothed her hair, and washed her face before dinner, and showed her how to fold her hands while he said grace. He took as much pains to train her to good manners at table as if he had been a governess, teaching a little lady. While she remained a "baby," he slept in the middle of the bed, between the two, that she might have room, and not be disturbed; and, when she ceased to be a baby, he silently made new arrangements. He denied himself a hat, which he much wanted, in order to buy a considerable quantity of coarse dark calico, which, with his own hands, he made into a curtain, and slung up across a part of the room,—thus shutting off about a third of it. Here he contrived to make up a little bed for his sister; and he was not satisfied till she had a basin and jug, and piece of soap of her own. Here nobody but himself was to intrude upon her without leave; and, indeed, he always made her understand that he came only to take care of her. It was not only that Willy was not to see her undressed. A neighbour or two now and then lifted the latch without knocking. One of these, one day, heard something from behind the curtain which made her call her husband silently to listen; and they always afterwards treated Joel as if he were a man, and one whom they looked up to. He was teaching the child her little prayer. The earnest, sweet, devout tones of the boy, and the innocent, cheerful imitation by the little one were beautiful to hear,—the listeners said.

Though so well taken care of, she was not to be pampered. There would have been no kindness in that. Very early, indeed, she was taught, in a merry sort of way, to put things in their places, and to sweep the floor, and to wash up the crockery. She was a handy little thing, well trained and docile.

One reward that Joel had for his management was that she was early fit to go to chapel. This was a great point; as he, choosing to send Willy regularly, could not go till he could take the little girl with him. He was never known to be restless; and Joel was quite proud of her.

Willy was not neglected for the little girl's sake. In those days children went earlier to the factory, and worked longer than they do now; and by the time the sister was five years old, Willy became a factory boy; and his pay put the little girl to school. When she, at seven, went to the factory too, Joel's life was altogether an easier one. He always had maintained them all, from the day of his mother's death. The times must have been good,—work constant and wages steady,—or he could not have done it. Now, when all three were earning, he put his sister to a sewing school for two evenings in the week, and the Saturday afternoons; and he and Willy attended an evening school, as they found they could afford it. He always escorted the little girl wherever she had to go; into the factory and home again,—to the school door and home again,—and to the Sunday-school; yet he was himself remarkably punctual at work and at worship. He was a humble, earnest, docile pupil, himself, at the Sunday-school—quite unconscious that he was more advanced than other boys in the sublime science and practice of duty. He felt that every body was very kind to him; but he was unaware that others felt it an honour to be kind to him.

I linger on these years, when he was a fine growing lad, in a state of high content. I linger, unwilling to proceed. But the end must come; and it is soon told. He was sixteen, I think, when he was asked to become a teacher in the Sunday-school, while not wholly ceasing to be a scholar. He tried, and made a capital teacher, and he won the hearts of the children while trying to open their minds. By this he became more widely known than before.

One day in the next year a tremendous clatter and crash was heard in the factory where Joel worked. A dead silence succeeded, and then several called out that it was only an iron bar that had fallen down. This was true: but the iron bar had fallen on Joel's head, and he was taken up dead.

Such a funeral as his is rarely seen. There is something that strikes on all hearts in the spectacle of a soldier's funeral—the drum, the march of comrades, and the belt and cap laid on the coffin. But there was something more solemn and more moving than all such observances in the funeral of this young soldier, who had so bravely filled his place in the conflict of life. There was the tread of comrades here, for the longest street was filled from end to end. For relics, there were his brother and sister; and for a solemn dirge, the uncontrollable groans of a heart-stricken multitude.

The Arts.

A WORD ABOUT THE LADY OF LYONS.

I went the other night to see the *Lady of Lyons* at Drury Lane, partly because Claude is one of Anderson's best parts, and partly because the drama is the most successful of modern plays, and amuses the critic by showing what wretched attempts at wit and what poetry will pass current with an audience, provided the story have movement, the situations interest, and the construction be skilful. I was more than ever impressed with what struck me from the first in the strange mistake made with Beauseant. It was originally given to Elton, and, consequently, has ever since been played by one of the "heavies." Thus is the whole force of the character destroyed. Beauseant is, at least, a gentleman—a man of high breeding, and excessively proud of his birth—he offers his hand to Pauline, with a coxcombry so insolent in its assertion of superiority that she herself remarks that he does it as if conferring a favour. Does any actor represent that coxcombry? Does any actor show us the insolent aristocrat—or even the manner of a gentleman? No; Beauseant is cast to a tragedian, and he contrives to make it as scowling and offensive as possible. It seems to me that if the part were played by Charles Mathews it might be one of the most effective in the piece: a cool, self-sufficient, polished scamp—not a fop, but yet so obviously on shaking-hand terms with himself as to colour his whole manner. In a word, it should be a bit of light comedy, and, oh, Heavens! given to any one but Mr. Cathcart, who in appearance, gesture, tone, deportment, and reading, was just the very opposite of what Beauseant ought to be. But actors are such sticklers for "tradition," that Elton's having once played the part in a certain way will most likely prevent any one else from venturing on a new reading.

There is no novelty to record. The Christmas pieces fill the houses, and old plays are thought sufficient makeweight. The new comedy by Mr. Sullivan, which was to have been produced last year, is now in active preparation at Drury Lane, and will be produced next week.

VIVIAN.

European Democracy, AND ITS OFFICIAL ACTS.

As there is no special intelligence from the Democratic party, nor any document of urgent importance, this week, there is no necessity to occupy the space usually devoted to this head.

Associative Progress.

WORKING ASSOCIATIONS OF PARIS.

L'ASSOCIATION DES PATRONS ET OUVRIERS ARCONNIERS is a society of masters and workmen associated on equal terms for the manufacture of saddle-trees, and all the wood and iron work in a saddle. It consists of forty-one members, and was commenced in the spring of 1848, when they had an order from Government for 7000 cavalry saddle-trees, at 17*fr.* each, which brought them in a profit of 20,720*fr.* 42*cs.* (£829). In January, 1849, the association was remodelled and established on the same broad democratic basis as the others, placing the executive power in the hands of three *gérants*, or directors, assisted by a *conseil d'administration*, or committee of management, consisting of nine members, and entrusting the arrangement of the daily work to two captains of labour, or foremen, one for the wood and one for the iron department. Besides the ordinary wages which are paid according to the work done, any member who by extraordinary industry, peculiar skill in workmanship, or any improvement, shall have materially benefited the society, is entitled to an extra grant of money. In 1849 they received a portion of the three millions; and, notwithstanding the bad state of trade during that year, they made profits to the amount of 4061*fr.* 26*cs.*, which, added to the previous year's profits of 20,720*fr.* 68*cs.*, made a total of 24,781*fr.* 68*cs.*, or nearly £992, up to 30th of June, 1849; and by the general balance for December, 1849, they made a profit of 4000*fr.* more. The profits are divided into three portions:—40 per cent. for a reserve fund; 10 per cent. for a common indivisible and inalienable fund to be employed as a loan in case of urgency. 50 per cent to be annually distributed amongst the members. The directors were empowered to negotiate a loan last year, of 20,000 francs, the half to be paid off by a deduction of 1*fr.* 50 from the weekly salary of each member. Their ateliers are situated in the *Rue des Petits Hôtels*, 25, near the splendid new church of *St. Vincent de Paul**, in a small courtyard, filled with quantities of timber, the property of this association. Winding our way between beams and logs of wood, amid the stench of melted glue, we entered a low room on the ground floor, occupied by eighteen or twenty men busily engaged in cutting and shaping the parts of saddle-trees. The *gérant* then conducted us to the other workshops where the gluing and iron work is done, explaining the various steps. The warehouse on the first floor was filled with stores of saddle-trees of every variety, piled up one upon the other in perfect order, ready for sale or exportation. This establishment derives a peculiar interest from the fact that employers have here assisted with their workmen, throwing their capital into the common stock, and working on an equal footing with those whom they used to command.

J. E. S.

THE REDEMPTION SOCIETY.—We made a slight mistake about the Halifax entrances; the board at Leeds not being aware that any of the large list of names sent had been obtained before the *soirée*, which appears to have been the case. Notwithstanding this it will be seen that Halifax has sent a large contribution to both funds, and Mr. Denton, who has just visited our friend there, bears testimony to their zeal and activity. To complete their success they must add a large list to the collectors. That which has long been anticipated by us of Leeds is gradually approaching—a union of the people, with whom we are in communication. The fact that the wealth and power of the society cannot but increase by every contribution received and manufactured article sold will produce this union in the end. The demand for shoes, now that we have made a beginning, is great, more than we can satisfy. We are about to send other two shoemakers, and if we had the communal buildings up we could employ any amount of labourers that could be lodged, to the great profit and progress of the society. Moneys received for the week ending January 6, 1851:—Leeds, £218*s.* 6*d.*; Halifax, per Mr. Denton, £516*s.* 6*d.*; Huddersfield, per Mr. Gledhill, 6*s.*; Gilderson, per Mr. Dickson, 3*s.* 5*d.*; Derby, per Mr. Seviright, 1*s.* 6*d.*; Burnley, per Dr. Huttly, 9*s.*; Rowell, Northamptonshire, Mr. Bull, 5*s.*; Liverpool, per T. Sandys, 17*s.* 2*d.*; Hyde, per J. Brady, 2*s.* 6*d.*; Brighton, per T. Kilvington, 5*s.* Communal Building Fund:—Leeds, 8*s.*; Huddersfield, per Mr. Gledhill, 5*s.*; Brighton, per Kilvington, 16*s.*; Halifax, per Mr. Denton, £1016*s.* 8*d.*; Derby, Mr. Seviright, 5*s.* 6*d.*

The project for purchasing Mr. Barker's printing-office for Dr. Lees, not being sufficiently responded to, has been abandoned.

* In this court the piano makers have taken their new prizes.



Open Council.

[IN THIS DEPARTMENT, AS ALL OPINIONS, HOWEVER EXTREME, ARE ALLOWED AN EXPRESSION, THE EDITOR NECESSARILY HOLDS HIMSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR NONE.]

There is no learned man but will confess he hath much profited by reading controversies, his senses awakened, and his judgment sharpened. If, then, it be profitable for him to read, why should it not, at least, be tolerable for his adversary to write.—MILTON.

MALTHUS.

Jan. 6, 1851.

SIR,—Forgive my intruding into a subject which you are continuing to discuss,—the Malthusian controversy. My sense that there is great confusion involved in it impels me. Moreover, aiming at conciseness, I will not fear to be abrupt.

What Malthus thought or meant is of secondary importance; yet I do not believe that he meant anything so absurd as that all men should refrain from marriage until middle life. I believe he in so many words declares, that each man is to marry whenever it is prudent, as well as pleasant, to him individually. I have not Malthus's work at hand, but feel certain that this is his doctrine. He desires to leave on each parent and his children the natural consequences of the parent's imprudence.

But let us leave Malthus and come to the facts. It is mere blindman's buff to talk about the fertility of soil and its geometrical increase; and fanaticism to argue from the divine goodness against the manifest certainties that surround us. It is a mathematical certainty that, if the existing population of the world were to increase for about eleven or twelve centuries at the same rate as the British population has done for some time past, no room would be left on the solid earth for men, women, and children to stand upon, allowing only a square foot for each. If you care to see it, I will send you the details of the calculation, which is a very simple one.

The conclusion which I draw from this indubitable certainty is the very opposite to that of current Malthusianism, viz., the case is too desperate for cure, and cannot be dealt with by our social philosophy. A man would be thought mad who refrained from promoting his own moral happiness by marrying, because he desired to postpone by ten years the time when the earth would hold no more men and women. So, also, a legislator is absurd and unjust, who, for the same object, tries to embarrass and retard marriage. The difficulty is too far beyond us in time, to make it our part to provide against it; while in all cases it is beyond our power to bring more than a miserable delay.

Nor is it certain that any moderate retarding of marriage checks population. Rather late marriage of women (I am told) tends to larger families. But I will not embarrass my argument by these details.

I cannot at all agree with Mr. Mill on this subject, who not only omits all attempt to show that the causes which facilitate the feeding of population have not increased, and are not likely to increase, more rapidly than population, but most extravagantly proposes to stigmatize married people for having large families! Every person of mature age, or every married man, will see the injustice and absurdity of this; but it suffices to remark that he overlooks the quality of the families, and directs his reproof at quantity only. A man who brings up twelve children virtuously, and educates all well, surely deserves more credit than one who brings up two children ill. If Mr. Mill's stigma on large families could be worked into our morality as he desires, the virtuous would have small families and the profligate large ones: thus the good would be outbred by the worse members of the community, who would have all the more room to fill with their own brats, because of the public-spirited abstinence of the virtuous.

There is a view of this subject which, I believe, Professor Lawson, of Dublin, first broached, and which deserves fuller consideration: viz., when the difficulty of feeding human population is on the increase this must infallibly betray itself by a larger and larger fraction of the community being devoted to raising food. Now, *primâ facie*, this goes to prove that we are not yet even within sight of the Malthusian danger. All allow that there may be a population too thin to feed itself economically, as well as too thick. During the earlier stage every increase in

population is an economical advantage, which manifests itself by a smaller and smaller fraction of the whole being occupied as agriculturists. When, therefore, we see that our agriculturists have become proportionably fewer, it is (*primâ facie*, I say), a proof of advantage from the increased numbers. Yet there is here a doubt, rising out of the quantity of imported food. We ought to include in our census the labourers who raise it before we decide on the agricultural fraction. Admitting this source of error, still when we remember that from 1832 to 1836 no corn was wanted from abroad, and that foreign corn was thrown into the Thames to avoid paying the duty, it would seem that fifteen years ago it would have sufficed to add to our agriculturists such a percentage of numbers (say 10 per cent.) as expresses the excess of the best harvests over the average harvests, as an allowance for our foreign food-raisers. If so, England was better peopled for economic feeding in 1836 than in 1736, I believe.

Economy in distribution is one great advantage possessed by every dense population; and this, I think, is often overlooked by Malthusians.

But pray understand that I regard myself as a Malthusian. The chief error of Malthus seems to me that he forgot the enactment of private property in land to be wholly artificial and recent in human nature. I am, Sir, yours truly,

F. W. NEWMAN.

LETTER TO H. MARTINEAU.

[The name and address being known only to H. Martineau, it is thought that there can be no objection to the publication of this letter, which is believed to express the feelings of a large number of persons.]

Jan. 7, 1851.

MY DEAR MADAM,—I am surprised to find that your happy suggestion of "Associated Homes for Poor Gentlewomen" has been so little noticed in the "Open Council" of the *Leader*, but cannot believe that this silence arises from any want of interest in the subject on the part of those most concerned, but probably from a reluctance to make their sentiments public. I feel sure that hundreds of gentlewomen with small incomes must be living, or rather vegetating, in the metropolis and its environs in comfortless lodgings, in obscurity and loneliness, who would thankfully unite to form a community upon the plan you propose, if they knew how to set about it; and to make known their wishes to each other. It seems to me that it will require the mediation of some individual with a large share of judgment and energy to arrange the matter at first, and of course a certain number must be brought together and agree to join their little incomes before anything can be done. How is that to be accomplished? I for one would gladly join in such a scheme, but am so much out of health that I fear I should scarcely be admissible, especially at first, when all the members should be able to exert themselves to introduce order and comfort into the household; but, should your views be carried out satisfactorily, and my health improve, I should be very glad to become a member of such a home. I think the idea of taking as boarders young women pursuing their studies at Queen's College with the design of becoming governesses a very good one, and when once the home is fairly arranged and settled, I think invalids need not be objected to, as their comparative helplessness would afford employment to the strong and healthy, and call forth the kindly and benevolent feelings and sympathies. Will you, my dear Madam, pardon the liberty I have taken in thus addressing you upon this, to me, interesting subject, and believe me to remain, yours very respectfully,

HOW TO RAISE CAPITAL FOR CO-OPERATIVE PURPOSES.

4, Park-side, Hyde-park-corner, Dec. 9, 1850.

SIR,—The *Times* of Nov. 15, in advertising to Mr. Cobden's speech at the peace meeting at Wrexham, attempts to excuse the Russian loan by hinting that American bonds, French rentes, Dutch stock, East India stock, British funds, &c., are all equally ill employed—that is, employed in supporting some injustice, oppression, or cruelty. But the capitalist can have no wish to promote such: on the contrary, could he see his way, he would no doubt prefer a safe home market for his capital to vesting it thus in political lucifer matches scattered all over the world! He does so because the capital market at home is glutted. Yet the labour market, too, is glutted! Naked, starving Labour, stands there with haggard eyes and folded arms, looking on at Capital making his lucifer matches; while Capital scowls grudgingly over his shoulder at naked, starving Labour, and thinks:—"How many more lucifer matches I could make were it not for the poor-rates." Labour, however, if he could obtain the loan of Capital, would no longer be naked and starving, would no longer need poor-rates, but could afford to pay the capitalist as good interest for his money as he gets by his lucifer matches. To realize this desirable result what, then, is required? Coöperation! The individual labourer

cannot give security to the capitalist; but joint-stock companies of associated labourers could give or obtain sufficient guarantee to do so, and thus emancipate the actual hands that execute the work from sweaters and middlemen of every description, by thus enabling them to hire or purchase for themselves land, raw material, and that gigantic slave and future liberator of the human race—mechanical power. This done, we should shortly see every acre of waste land in the kingdom fertilized, every hungry mouth fed, every naked limb clothed, and every wretched hovel converted into a comfortable, healthful dwelling.

Let it not be said that such anticipations are extravagant. The extravagance, the madness, consists in neglecting to bring together the elements of this real wealth, which exists in the country in unlimited abundance, and devoting our whole energies to the indefinite increase of mere conventional wealth, no matter at what sacrifice of happiness or even of life itself. That the real prosperity described above would follow upon arrangements enabling labour to borrow capital (with, of course, every precaution of prudent direction), becomes a matter of sober calculation, when we consider that the labour of one man on land is estimated to produce the food of nine men, and that the labour of a few hands with the aid of machinery can clothe, house, and provide furniture for thousands. Why, then, should suffering which is not really unavoidable be permitted to continue? Have we not a sufficient number of able, practical men, among all those who belong to our various associations, leagues, and societies, who speak well on such subjects at public meetings, and write well on such in public journals, and who devote themselves, in one way or other, to the well being of the people, to form out of them all one great, general, and widely-influential Protection of Labour League; and with the far-spread network of secretaries, delegates, corresponding members, and travelling members already in existence, arrange safe and prudent means of giving guarantees to capital for such advances as shall be found necessary to assist the birth struggles of all working men's associations (such as the Working Tailors' Association, and all others which are a step in the right direction), until gradually, without injustice or violence to any one, the whole race of middlemen, the sweater of every description, all, in short, who derive profit beyond the interest of their own capital, and the wages of their own skill, from the labour of another, whether on the land, in the factory, or in the work-shop, shall have disappeared as utterly from our social system as the wolf has from our forests?

Middlemen, by not resting satisfied with this, their honest share, have become a baneful excrescence on the social body, intercepting the nutriment which ought to give health and vigour to its natural limbs. Witness "respectable-looking" Farmer Green agreeing for one halfpenny per week with his harvest labourers! The Protection of Labour League must render the intervention of such agricultural sweaters unnecessary, by giving to landlords guarantee for the rent of farms to be taken on lease and worked by associations of agricultural labourers, care being taken that a sufficient number of each association shall be skilled in farming; and, as a useful precaution for the future, that good agricultural schools, as well as schools of industry in manufactures, handicrafts, &c., be made general, to secure the advantage of superior skill in farming and all useful employments to all the rising generation. Labour thus relieved by coöperation from the at once murderous and suicidal mania of competition, by association from the vampire-like suction of the sweating system, by organization from the blind scramble of a gambling market, and by the ownership of machinery for its assistant instead of rival, from the overwhelming depression of the labour market, all else would follow. The Protection of Labour League would make itself acquainted with all markets, home and foreign, and be able to direct production by information and advice to all companies of associated labourers. Thus, when trade became slack in any department, companies of associated labourers, having capital to fall back upon, could employ such intervals of leisure in multiplying comforts, luxuries, and elegancies for themselves and each other, instead of glutting the general market with productions for which there was no immediate demand.

When the seven hundred million man-power of machinery now at work in this kingdom had thus become, by virtue of the possession or the loan of capital, the associate, instead of the rival of manual labour, surely all the work necessary to the comfort and prosperity of thirty millions of people, may be done by this wood and iron slave, without making flesh and blood slaves of any class! With competency and leisure would come literary education and refinement to an extent that would now be deemed Utopian if described. Many of those who had derived so great economical advantages from coöperating to earn would probably find great social delight, as well as additional economical advantages, in coöperating to spend, and so form themselves into perfect societies, based on land, but embracing all varieties of employments, pursuits, and recreations. While

those who did not desire this could choose the mode of life that pleased them best: the business of the Protection of Labour League is with the helpless, to see that they be not crushed by the monster trains of competition, which, in their panting speed, grind and mutilate all that cross their path, and, finally, run in upon and destroy each other! This is called "Things finding their own level!"

Is this picture too hopeful? Take, then, the less favourable view, and say that it should prove difficult or impossible for companies of associated labourers to obtain loans from capitalists; still they must not despair. Coöperation is still the harbour for which they must steer—organization still the pilot that must guide them. The voyage will no doubt be much longer; but who that has heard of such sums as twenty thousand pounds, forty thousand pounds, eighty thousand pounds being saved by working men, and cast away on strikes, can doubt their power of forming their own Protection of Labour League, and ultimately emancipating themselves, by devoting their savings to the foundation of coöperative associations? With such a land of promise before them, how great would be their energy? While the men capable of the industry, the sobriety, the self-denial necessary for this first step, would surely prove the best and most practical guides to the rest of their suffering brethren. Then, if none else will help them, let them help themselves!

As I take a very warm interest in all coöperative associations, believing coöperation to be the only hope of the labouring classes, I shall feel much obliged by your inserting these remarks on the subject in your paper. The principles, however, are all that I contend for; the manner of carrying them out practical men must understand much better than I can. I would, therefore, anxiously call on all such to devise some means of divorcing mechanical power from capital and marrying it to manual labour; of ending the warfare of competition and banishing gambling from trade; of annihilating intermediate profits, and procuring for the hands that work the rise of capital; of teaching men to prefer money's worth to money, and, as they possess the power of producing real wealth of every description without limit, of doing so under conditions which shall render it honest and just for them—the producers—to enjoy the earthly Paradise which labour, aided by science, organization, and coöperation,* has the power to create. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

MARGARITA LOUDON.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

Mornington-road, Regent's-park, Jan. 2, 1851.

SIR,—The efficient aid you rendered to this important subject the last session, when this great question in which so many thousands of persons are interested was before the House of Commons, induces me again to solicit your assistance on the effort to be made, that it now passes the House of Lords and thus becomes the law of the land.

The Right Honourable Stuart Wortley (the present learned Recorder of London) conducted this bill to a triumphant issue in the House of Commons the last session against every possible opposition from the High Church party, led on by the member for the University of Oxford, aided by the Roman Catholic priesthood in support of the dear old canons of the Church, so congenial to both; and it was only through the aid—the powerful aid—of the Dissenters of every denomination, who, to their great honour be it said, united as one man, that the House of Commons allowed the bill to go through the third reading; but it was even then at so late a period of the session, that it was judged inexpedient at that time to hurry it up to the House of Lords.

Will it, therefore, now be carried successfully through that Right Honourable House?—is the question which thousands of amiable and conscientious persons are now asking themselves. Will the High Church party in the House of Lords be so overbearing and rampant now on this question as they have been before? At any rate let us hope not. One thing is certain, there will not be any Roman Catholic Mr. Shiel in the House of Lords to offer up his unmeaning rant to the great disgust of every right-thinking man.

I have met with several very intelligent men who express their belief that a great difference of opinion may be expected just now on the subject of the Canons of the Romish Church, which are the only pegs whereon to hang the shadow of an argument, as I defy the opponents of the bill to find any authority

* We want a more searching and efficient organization for the improvement of our poor. There is no lack of hands and no stint of means, but our forces are scattered and wasted for want of coöperation and aim. We have clergy and Dissenting ministers, and parish officers, and union officers, and sanitary officers, and home missionaries, and agents of innumerable societies, and an army of rate collectors; but, with endless expense, we have none who think their business to get at the poorest in their own haunts, and draw them one by one out of the slough.—*Times*, Nov. 30, 1850.

+ Why not thousand by thousand, and place them in self-supporting villages? Why not, indeed, now that the Thunderer has declared that organization and coöperation are what we want?—M. L.

in Scripture for their opposition. The Anglican Church may now abuse the Roman Catholics as much as they think proper; but only touch the dear old Canons, on which the government of the Anglican Church is founded, and the parties immediately unite as if acting under a common bond, because touch the Canons and they fear that the temporalities of the Church will be in danger.

With the aid, then, of the Liberal press of England, we may reasonably hope to arouse the country once more in the forthcoming struggle. The House of Lords is not impervious to reason, and when the same feeling is exhibited as was aroused the last year, we then may reasonably be assured of a successful issue.

The bill will most probably be introduced into the House of Lords by the Earl St. Germans, better known in Ireland as Lord Elliot, the late Sir Robert Peel's able chief secretary in the Sister Kingdom; and whilst we sincerely pray for his lordship's success, we know also that he will be supported in this, his arduous undertaking, by the prayers of thousands of innocent women and children, who have had already added one year of misery and uncertainty, from the House of Lords not having passed the bill the last year.

Doubtless the arguments which have formerly been adduced in favour of this bill are yet fresh in the recollection of the public at large; nevertheless, it is earnestly hoped that the friends of this salutary and just measure connected with the press, throughout the whole length and breadth of the land, will, as opportunity occurs, throw in their disinterested, but most powerful, aid.

I remain, Mr. Editor, your obedient humble servant,

ALFRED.

MR. MUNTZ AND THE "TIMES."

Jan. 4, 1851.

SIR,—In your number of the 4th instant you have noticed a recent controversy which has been going on between Mr. Muntz and the *Times*. You have also an article on the Progress of the People, in which you make some observations on the state of things in this country from 1801 to 1815. A part of these observations, taken in connection with the style and matter of your remarks on Mr. Muntz's plan, convince me that you have not paid that amount of attention to the subject of the currency that ought to be expected from a "Leader."

You seem cognizant of the fact that from 1801 to 1815 all prices were higher, and that those high prices lent an "activity to trade" and a "prosperity to those dependant on trade." You might also have added to agriculture. This "activity" and "prosperity" you characterize as "fallacious," and for which we "paid in a desperate price on the reaction of peace."

Why in this particular war did we enjoy prosperity? To be followed by adversity on the restoration of peace! A complete inversion of all former experience. I offer you an explanation. When the whole nation was seized with a mania to fight the French, and when once at it must not yield, Pitt had to furnish us with the sinews of war—our gold currency was broken down, but our powers of production were abundant; he therefore said, gold or no gold; the subjects of this realm must have an instrument of exchange, and that, too, in a sufficient quantity; they had it; this caused our prosperity during the war. (a) At the end of the war, Pitt being dead, his monetary system was subverted, to the great consternation of all thinking men; and this it was that brought on the disasters which have followed us continually since the peace, (b) which you seem to think a "desperate price," naturally owing to our former "fallacious prosperity."

Mr. Muntz was one of those who opposed the destruction of Pitt's monetary system and the establishment of the present one. He recommends a circulation adequate to the wants of the nation, or such as will allow prices to rise to a remunerating level; (c) that circulation to be permanently adequate instead of fluctuating, as it does now, to the great insecurity of industry. What is there wrong in this?

Who profits by low prices? (d) None but the fixed-income class. On the contrary, high prices are the means by which that class may be made to bear, as they ought, the burdens which are now laid on industry, which they did under Pitt's system.

You advert to the increased rental of land, but you forget to state the fact that the farmer contributes comparatively little to this increase: the greatest portion arises from ground rents, (e) from enlargement of our towns. Estates in 1751 of £500 per annum are in 1851 paying £100,000, being built upon.

You must admit that wages cannot rise unless the employer has the means of paying them. Let them have the means, and then the worker will not be long before he will have his share. In the manufacturing districts the enlarged circulation that has been allowed from time to time has gone mostly into the pockets of the master, because that circulation was not permanent, it being contracted by our present absurd laws, just at the time when the workers were beginning to feel the benefit.

You have a confused idea that Mr. Muntz is a "conjurer," when he supposes that a depreciation of 2s. 6d. in the pound will raise prices to a remunerating level. The ridiculousness of this lies in your own imagination; depreciation is a slang phrase, which is applied to the paper pound, when you cannot buy 123 grains of gold with it. Deprive gold of its function as a legal tender, even partially, and it sinks in price with respect to other things. This is the reason why the fall in the price of gold, induced by the contraction of the circulation of £1 notes between the years 1815 and 1822, was less than one half the fall of the aggregate of other commodities: it is certain that if you increase the circulation of notes, as Mr. Muntz recommends, the prices of goods and labour will increase in a much greater proportion than the price of gold. (f) Its price, under Pitt's system, rose far less than any other commodity. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

M.

P.S. It is a much easier matter to dream in mental idleness of new and fanciful combinations of society than to patiently investigate the real experience of the past, recorded as it so often is by thoughtless observers, or worse than thoughtless fictions. There is a great difficulty peculiar to this question, in ascertaining the real merits of Pitt's system, which had nearly been a perfect monetary system, but was assailed by Cobbett and others with the greatest virulence. I shall probably refer again to this subject, if it attracts any attention from your readers. Social progress is not possible till this is understood; we must have an organization of exchange before an organization of labour; and an organization of exchange means nothing more or less than a rational, practical money system.

M.

(a) All the real prosperity during the war was caused by the rapid extension of our manufacturing system, combined with a virtual monopoly of the world-market for our manufactured produce.

(b) Since the peace every civilized nation in the world has been competing with us in the world-market, and consequently narrowing the field for our merchants. Hence continual reductions in the price of goods.

(c) Before M. attempts to dogmatize on the currency question we should like him to explain what he means by the phrase "a remunerating level." Who are to be the judges of this? Producers or consumers?

(d) Were land and labour perfectly free, all classes would profit by low prices, where cheapness was the result of increased facility of production. At present cheapness often causes a glut, but no alteration of the currency could prevent that.

(e) The increase in the rental of arable, not building, land during the last century, has been, in many counties, from two to three hundred per cent., even at a distance from towns. Is this "comparatively little"?

(f) How will you guarantee the requisite rise in the price of labour? Wages did not rise with the suspension of cash payments, in 1797, nor till the working class had suffered terrible privations for a number of years.—Ed. L.]

SIR EDWARD SUGDEN AND PRISONERS.

Queen's Prison, Jan. 9, 1851.

SIR,—The *Times*, on the 7th instant, published an enormously long letter from Sir Edward Sugden, the object of which is to vindicate the Court of Chancery from the imputation of inflicting undue imprisonments for contempts, and especially from the suspicion of detaining persons many years by mistake. This the learned gentleman seeks to do principally by recriminating upon the individual characters of the prisoners, whom he describes as a perverse and peculiar race who like imprisonment and desire to be reputed martyrs. Of course there are two sides to this sort of argument, and it is usual to hear both sides when individuals are made the subject of prejudicial remarks. Now, I am an individual pointedly alluded to in this letter, and yet the *Times* has not thought proper to insert a letter of mine in answer, in which I show anecdotes quite as grossly ludicrous on the other side of the question as any that are contained in Sir Edward's letter: besides which, I give the names to my cases, whereas he does not to his. Therefore, as the *Times* does not patronize free discussion, but is suborned to one side, this is to appeal to your known impartiality to afford me a little space in your next number for the purpose of going thoroughly into this subject, and of sifting the great lawyer Sugden to the bottom. And one thing will result, which is this, that it is not surprising that people complain of the law when it is eternally cobbled and mended by those of the craft who really do not understand it a bit to well.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

W. COBBETT.

[We shall be happy to see Mr. Cobbett's statement, but beg to remind him of the necessity for making it as brief as possible.—Ed.]

LAND LAWS.—When the era has arrived, at which— notwithstanding the delights and enjoyments of a country life, the pleasures of proprietorship, the privilege of the quorum, and the right to sentence poor harts, an t. kiff game—men obtain for their landed investments a much less annual return than ought to be afforded by land—then it becomes necessary for the Legislature to interfere, and by its action to alter laws which, in fettering property, or the power of disposing freely of property, work a social, economic, and enervating evil to the whole community.—*British Quarterly*, No. 24.

Wm. Medlock, Lancashire, brewer, Jan. 22, Feb. 11; solicitor, Mr. Sutton, Manchester; official assignee, Mr. Fraser, Manchester; J. D. HARWOOD, Liverpool, ironmonger, Jan. 16, Feb. 18; solicitor, Mr. Pemberton, Liverpool; official assignee, Mr. Turner, Liverpool.

DIVIDENDS.—Jan. 25, L. Samuel, Bury-street, St. Mary Axe, silversmith—Jan. 28, N. Patterson, Oxford, woollendrapery—Jan. 28, S. Brown, Sunning, common brewer.

CERTIFICATES.—To be granted, unless cause be shown to the contrary on the day of meeting.—Jan. 29, J. N. Baker, Alton, Hampshire, auctioneer—Jan. 30, W. Binder, Oset, Essex, builder—Jan. 30, G. Walker, Philpot-lane, merchant—Jan. 30, T. H. Jolley, Farringdon-street, fruit-saler—Jan. 29, G. Langford, Southampton, grocer—Jan. 29, W. Shackel, Canning-place, Old-street, St. Luke's, bacon merchant—Jan. 29, W. Benist, jun., Langley-green, Worcester-shire, brickmaker.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—Archibald Brothers, Kellarsbrae, near Alton, manufacturers, Jan. 13, Feb. 4.—T. Brown, Granton, near Edinburgh, iron-merchant, Jan. 10 and 31.—J. Strathern, Glasgow, commission-agent, Jan. 11, Feb. 1.—W. Cleland and Co., Glasgow, ironfounders, Jan. 13, Feb. 3.

Friday, January 10.

DECLARATIONS OF DIVIDENDS.—W. Walford, Great Winchester-street, merchant, final div. of 11d., on Tuesday, Jan. 14, or any subsequent Tuesday; Mr. Pennell, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street—G. F. Gardener, Rayleigh, Essex, grocer; first div. of 3s. any Wednesday; Mr. Whitmore, Basinghall-street—J. Kaye, Finsbury, coal-merchant; first div. of 3s. 3d., any Wednesday; Mr. Whitmore, Basinghall-street—E. Ground, Wisbech and Parson-drove, Cambridgeshire, draper; first div. of 3s. 6d., any Wednesday; Mr. Whitmore, Basinghall-street—G. M. Collett, Lincoln's-inn-fields, attorney; second div. of 3s. 11d., any Wednesday; Mr. Whitmore, Basinghall-street.

BANKRUPTS.—T. TOYNER, University-street, Tottenham-court-road, horse dealer, to surrender Jan. 24, Feb. 21; solicitors, Messrs. Lawrence and Pless, Old Jewry-chambers; official assignee, Mr. Cannon, Birch-lane, Cornhill—A. WILSON, South Island-place, Clapham-road, livery stablekeeper, Jan. 17, Feb. 21; solicitor, Mr. Jones, Quality-court, Chancery-lane; official assignee, Mr. Whitmore, Basinghall-street—A. MOORE, South-wharf, South-wharf-road, Paddington, stone merchant, Jan. 21, Feb. 21; solicitor, Mr. Vaughan, Portico-road, Paddington; official assignee, Mr. Stansfeld, Basinghall-street—J. SMITH, Kent-place, Old Kent-road, cheesemonger, Jan. 22, Feb. 18; Messrs. Hillery, Fenchurch-street; official assignee, Mr. Groom, Abchurch-lane, Lombard-street—W. C. CRANWELL, Ely, Cambridgeshire, potato-merchant, Jan. 21, Feb. 18; solicitors, Messrs. Pickering, Smith, and Tompson, Stone-buildings, Lincoln's-inn, and Messrs. Archer, Ely, Cambridgeshire; official assignee, Mr. Groom, Abchurch-lane, Lombard-street—G. G. JONES, Elizabeth-street, Hans-place, licensed victualler, Jan. 21, Feb. 18; solicitor, Mr. Granger, Bucklersbury; official assignee, Mr. Edwards, Lambrook-court, Basinghall-street—H. CROSSY, Burnley, Lancashire, hosiery-draper, Jan. 23, Feb. 14; solicitors, Messrs. Sale, Wokington, and Shipman, Manchester; official assignee, Mr. Mackenzie, Manchester—G. T. KOLLAS, Birmingham, china-dealer, Jan. 22, Feb. 19; solicitors, Messrs. Mottram, Knight, and Emmet, Birmingham; and Messrs. Wright, Birmingham; official assignee, Mr. Whitmore, Basinghall-street.

DIVIDENDS.—Jan. 31, J. Honiball, Ingram-court, Fenchurch-street, and Wickham, Durham, anchor manufacturer—Jan. 31, L. Sothers and W. Peritt, Gravesend, grocers—Jan. 31, W. Abbott, jun., Berners-street, Southwark, patent-hair-felt-manufacturer—Jan. 31, R. L. Fluder, Romsey, Southampton, timber merchant—Jan. 31, J. Ball, Martins-lane, Cannon-street, merchant—Jan. 31, R. Andrews, Kingsbury-green, victualler—Feb. 1, W. Jackson, Lichfield, wine-merchant—Feb. 3, W. Drabbes, Askrigg, Yorkshire, innkeeper—Feb. 3, W. Threlkell, Addingham, Yorkshire, cotton spinner—Feb. 3, H. Thurston, Cheltenham, innkeeper—Feb. 5, A. Mitchell, Cardiff, draper—Feb. 3, W. N. Procter, Manchester, cotton dealer.

CERTIFICATES.—To be granted, unless cause be shown to the contrary on the day of meeting.—Jan. 31, W. Woods, Prospect-place, Wandsworth-road, builder—Feb. 4, R. Devey, Cornhill, cook—Feb. 4, W. King, Gravesend, draper—Feb. 3, W. Simpson, Manchester, starch manufacturer—Feb. 5, W. Huze, Stockport, draper—Feb. 3, H. Hignin, Bilston, Staffordshire, grocer—Jan. 31, J. Hiley, Dewsbury, Yorkshire, machine maker.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—A. Menzies, Aberfeldy, Perthshire, hotelkeeper, Jan. 16, Feb. 6.—H. G. Booth, Row, Dumfriesshire, merchant, Jan. 18, Feb. 8.—A. Law, Burnmouth, Lanarkshire, farmer, Jan. 16, Feb. 6.—K. McKenzie, Rentonhall, the manufacturer, Jan. 17, Feb. 7.—T. W. Tait, Broadhugh, near Chirnside, Berwick, farmer, Jan. 17, Feb. 12.—W. Little, Borgeu, Kirkcubrightshire, cattle dealer, Jan. 15, Feb. 5.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

On the 27th of July, at New Norfolk, Van Diemen's Land, the wife of the Venerable Archdeacon Marriott, of a son.
On the 6th of November, at Peshawar, the wife of Lieutenant-Colonel John Fordyce, of the Bengal Artillery, of a son.
On the 1st inst., at Northfleet, Kent, the wife of Captain Lee, R.N., of a son.
On the 3rd inst., at Luffness, East Lothian, the Honourable Mrs. George Wm. Hope, of a son.
On the 4th inst., at the Rectory, Akeley, Buckingham, the wife of the Reverend J. H. Risley, of a son.
On the 5th inst., at Twickenham Rectory, Sussex, the wife of the Reverend J. W. Conant, of a daughter.
On the 7th inst., at Edinburgh, the wife of Major Blackburn, Eighty-fifth Light Infantry, of a son.
On the 8th inst., in Manchester-square, the wife of Sidney Gurney, Esq., of a daughter.
On the 8th inst., in Lowndes-square, the Honourable Mrs. Mark Kerr, of a son.
On the 8th inst., at the Eagle-house, Enfield, the wife of the Reverend John Fuller Russell, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 2nd inst., at Bath, James Blair, Esq., second son of the late Captain E. M. Blair, Bengal army, to Frances Belinda Emily, fifth daughter of the late N. I. Halded, Esq., Bengal civil service.
On the 4th inst., at St. Pancras Church, R. Albin, Esq., of the firm of Wm. Cubitt and Co., to Eliza, sister of William Dunnage, Esq. Gray's-inn-road.
On the 4th inst., at Cheltenham, Captain G. V. Maxwell, Eighty-eighth Foot, son of the Reverend P. B. Maxwell, Birdston, Londonderry, to Charlotte Wilhelm, daughter of the late John Kearney, Esq., of the county of Kilkenny.
On the 7th inst., at Finsbury, Mr. Thos. Leonard, to Priscilla, only daughter of the late Thomas Grimes, M.C.P., of Ann's-place, Chelsea.
On the 7th inst., at Westend Church, near Southampton, the Reverend W. Mortimer Dyer, chaplain H.E.C.S., to Ellen, eldest daughter of H. Dumbleton, Esq., of Thornhill, Hants.
On the 7th inst., at Derby, the Reverend E. R. Jones, rector of Limehouse, to Mary, elder surviving daughter of the late H. Worthington, Esq., of Derby.
On the 7th inst., at St. George's, Hanover-square, Captain A. C. Glegg, R.A., to Jessie, only daughter of John Stuart, Esq., M.P.

On the 7th inst., at Everdon, Northamptonshire, the Reverend W. T. Browning, B.A., of Exeter College, Oxford, eldest son of W. S. Browning, Esq., of Smithfield-bars, to Mary Eleanor, only daughter of the Reverend G. R. Green, M.A., rector of Everdon.
On the 8th inst., at St. Pancras, Wm. Ord Mackenzie, M.D., Fifth Fusiliers, to Mary Susan, only daughter of the late Henry Holmes, Esq.

DEATHS.

On the 28th ult., at Altona, Professor Schumacher.
On the 28th ult., in London, Isabella Stenton, wife of Francis Stenton, Esq., of the late Lord Castlemaine.
On the 28th ult., at Balmachie-house, Castle Douglas, N.B., J. M. Gordon, Esq., rear-admiral of the Blue, aged 68.
On the 1st inst., at Castle Dawson, Ireland, Captain Trelawny, Grenadier Guards, eldest son of H. B. Trelawny, Esq., of Hertford-street, Mayfair.
On the 2nd inst., at Birmingham, the Reverend E. Kennedy, for many years one of the masters of the Free Grammar School of that town.
On the 3rd inst., at Dartmouth-villas, Lewisham, Margaret Carr, wife of Commander Poppewell, R.N., and ninth daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel George Mackay, of Bighouse, Sutherlandshire.
On the 5th inst., in Wilton-crescent, George Drummond, Esq., of Charing-cross.
On the 5th inst., at Worcester, aged 88, Ann, relict of the late H. Chamberlain, Esq., alderman of that city, and last of the ancient family of Draycot, of Draycot-in-the-Moors, county of Stafford.
On the 5th inst., at Brighton, the Reverend A. Cooper, M.A., perpetual curate of St. Mark's, North Audley-street, aged 57.
On the 6th inst., at Shooter's-hill, T. S. Davies, Esq., F.R.S., London and Edinburgh, and F.A.S., aged 57.
On the 6th inst., at Cheltenham, Major John Williams, R.N.
On the 7th inst., at Putney, aged 60, Evan Morris, Esq., for twenty years a member of the firm of Messrs. Milne and Morris, of the Inner Temple.
On the 7th inst., at Portsmouth, Captain Sir H. Blackwood, Bart., R.N., commanding H.M. ship Vengeance.
On the 8th inst., at Dover, aged 77, Lieutenant-Colonel Belwin.
On the 8th inst., in Tavistock-square, aged 33, Catherine Caroline, the beloved wife of the Reverend J. V. Povah.

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A PUBLIC MEETING, convened by the Executive Committee of the NATIONAL CHARTER ASSOCIATION, will be held in the hall of the Literary and Scientific Institution, John-street, Tottenham-court-road, on Tuesday Evening, January 14, 1851, for the purpose of considering the present critical position of affairs, at Home and Abroad. The whole of the committee, viz., Messrs. O'Connor, Reynolds, Ernest Jones, Harney, Holyoake, Grassby, and She is a Pro- tectant, but would prefer teaching where the Spirit of Religion is considered of higher importance than its ever changing forms. Address to A. Y., 4, Gracechurch-street.

By Order of the Committee,

JOHN ARNOTT, Secretary.

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Any money addressed to Thomas Brown, 41, Turnmill-street, Clerkenwell-green, for this commission, will be received with the greatest gratitude by the Refugees.

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